



Voted “Best
Theatre School”
*-Main Line Today
Magazine*



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Theatre Program

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE



OUR PROGRAM

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 36-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 are available in the areas of Acting, Research, Public Relations, Costumes, Set Construction and Properties Construction.

- 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.



AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTIONS

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 180-seat theatre is located just a few miles outside of Philadelphia, allowing you 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 intern and work in professional

theatres through connections made while working on a Villanova Theatre production.

Productions are directed and designed by faculty and freelance theatre artists. Graduate students are the mainstay of the season, with opportunities to be involved as actors, stage managers and production crew.

Villanova Theatre productions are attended by a large subscriber base and reviewed by media outlets from the greater Philadelphia area. Since 1995, we have received 52 nominations and six Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre.

INSPIRING | ARTFUL | IMAGINATIVE



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

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 administrators in nonprofit organizations.

Our MPA students take 27 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 fulfill the remaining three credits.

When applying for the Certificate, these students must also apply to the Master of Public Administration as their secondary program. Applicants must be accepted into both programs separately and will be guided through the process by the Theatre Department Program Coordinator.



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL THEATRE

The Graduate Certificate in Practical Theatre provides hands-on professional experience to the student who may not wish to pursue the MA degree, but would like to acquire the skills, vocabulary and methodology fundamental to the practice of theatre. These students take five performance or production courses and participate in the theatre season.

The curriculum builds from the fundamentals of acting and design to a culminating course in directing. Upon satisfactory completion of 15 credit hours, these students will be awarded the Graduate Certificate in Practical Theatre.

Certificate students must complete one production practicum consisting of 80 hours of work on a season production. This can be completed through acting, assistant stage managing, running lights or sound, or other production assignments to be determined.





COURSES OFFERED

CORE COURSES

- Principles of Acting
- Script Analysis
- Dramaturgy: Classic Traditions
- Dramaturgy: Modern Traditions
- Dramatic Vision and Form: Classic
- Dramatic Vision and Form: Modern

ELECTIVES*

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

**some electives may not be offered every year*

MA TRACK

MPA TRACK

SAMPLE COURSE PLANS

| | Fall | Spring |
|-------------|--|---|
| First Year | Dramaturgy: Classic Script Analysis Principles of Acting | Dramaturgy: Modern Theatre Elective Theatre Elective |
| Second Year | Vision & Form: Classic Theatre Elective Theatre Elective | Vision & Form: Modern Theatre Elective Theatre Elective |

MA TRACK **36**
CREDITS

MPA TRACK **39**
CREDITS

| | Fall | Spring | Summer |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| First Year | Dramaturgy: Classic Script Analysis Nonprofit Management | Dramaturgy: Modern Theatre Elective Fundraising | Theatre Management <i>This course can be taken after either your first or second year.</i> |
| Second Year | Theatre Elective Theatre Elective Financial Management | Theatre Elective Theatre Elective MPA Elective | |





DEGREE/CURRICULUM INFORMATION

MA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

You will need a total of 36 credits to complete the MA in Theatre program. Aside from traditional coursework, you must 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.
- Complete a thesis project that must be defended in front of a Theatre Department panel.

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, you would need to take three courses (totaling nine credits) per semester. Part-time students may take one or two classes per semester.

SCHEDULING

Classes are offered Monday-Thursday. All classes meet once a week.

- Theatre classes: 4:30-7:30 pm.
- MPA Program courses may vary from these times.

Weekday rehearsals are generally scheduled to take place after classes for a duration of up to four hours. On weekends, rehearsals last for six to eight hours per day. Directors will give cast and crew at least one night off a week. Rehearsals do not run later than 11:30 pm.

NON-THEATRE COURSES

We ask that you focus on courses in our curriculum. Requests to take non-theatre courses may be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Chair.



SUBURBAN PHILADELPHIA

Villanova is located 20 minutes from the recreational, historical and cultural attractions of Philadelphia. Philadelphia offers:

- Over 50 theatre companies including the Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Company and The Wilma Theater.
- Countless performing arts venues including the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and the Mann Center.
- World-class museums including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes Foundation and the Franklin Institute.
- Historic sites like Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and Eastern State Penitentiary.
- Recreational attractions, such as Philadelphia Zoo, Adventure Aquarium and Longwood Gardens.
- Colorful neighborhoods and scenic walks through places like the Italian Market in South Philly and Valley Forge National Park.
- Local professional sports teams.

Villanova's proximity to one of the nation's leading arts districts provides a myriad of creative and professional opportunities.

“ Students in the program take foundational classes together (which bonds you as a group, not unlike the way a cast, department or team might in the world beyond school) but then are given the flexibility to pursue their own interests and talents. The producing arm of the program allowed me to put into practice that which I was learning in the classroom—and I think that having our work be presented in such a very public way (to the entire Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Community) makes for a terrific learning experience. **You learn by doing, falling (sometimes) and then are given the support to try it all over again.** ”

—Michele Volansky, PhD, '92



Chair and Associate Professor,
Department of Drama,
Washington College
Associate Artist and Conference
Dramaturg, PlayPenn





FACULTY



VALERIE JOYCE, PHD DEPARTMENT CHAIR

is the Chair of the Theatre Department and an Associate Professor at Villanova, teaching Script Analysis, Musical Theatre, and The Teaching of Theatre. Her research cuts across race, genre, and historical period, centering on cultural constructs of gender and the theatre's role in shaping American womanhood, with work appearing in *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *Pennsylvania History Journal*, and *Complutense Journal of English Studies*. Most recently, her analysis of Rodgers and Hammerstein's work, "The Sound of Money," was published in *The Palgrave Handbook of Musical Theatre Producers*. Dr. Joyce's current book project examines African American women before Emancipation. Using her play, *I Will Speak for Myself*, Dr. Joyce mixes performance texts and primary historical artifacts to illuminate the lives of African American women from the Colonial period through the Civil War. *I Will Speak for Myself* recently played in New York at 59E59 Theater and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Also a director, choreographer and designer, Valerie designed costumes for the world premiere of *A Persistent Memory* off-Broadway and has directed *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*, *Translations*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Light in the Piazza*, *Carousel*, *Cabaret*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Bat Boy: The Musical at Villanova*.



MICHAEL HOLLINGER, MA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

is the Artistic Director for Villanova Theatre, a Professor of Theatre and the author of a dozen full-length plays and musicals, including *Under the Skin*, *Opus*, *Ghost-Writer*, *Red Herring*, *Incorruptible*, *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf*, *Cyrano* (translator/co-adaptor) and the musical *TouchTones* (with composer Robert Maggio), currently premiering at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company. Together, these works have enjoyed numerous productions around the country, in New York City and abroad. His awards include a Steinberg New Play Citation from the American Theatre Critics Association, four Barrymore Awards, a Mid-Atlantic Emmy and fellowships from the Independence Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Michael serves the Theatre Department as Director of Graduate Theses and teaches graduate Playwriting and Solo Performance, as well as undergraduate Playwriting and Songwriting.



ED SOBEL, MFA RESIDENT DIRECTOR

is a director and dramaturg. Prior to joining Temple, he was Director of New Play Development at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, where he oversaw the development of over forty new plays, including: Pulitzer and Tony Award winner August: Osage County, Pulitzer finalists Red Light Winter and Man from Nebraska, and Joseph Jefferson Award winner The Pain and the Itch. Broadway credits as dramaturg include August: Osage County and Superior Donuts. His Philadelphia-area work includes directing Superior Donuts, Clybourne Park and Endgame (all at the Arden Theatre). Other recent directing credits include the world premiere of Cadillac (five Joseph Jefferson nominations, including best director). Ed created and was the director of the First Look Repertory Of New Work, for which he received the Elliot Hayes Award from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas for outstanding contribution to the field of dramaturgy. He holds an MFA in directing from Northwestern.



CHELSEA PHILLIPS, MFA, PHD RESIDENT DRAMATURG

is a professional dramaturg and theatre historian, who completed her doctorate in Theatre at The Ohio State University and also holds an MFA in Dramaturgy from Mary Baldwin College/The American Shakespeare Center. As a dramaturg, she has worked with 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. Her research focuses on celebrity pregnancy on the 18th century British stage, currently the topic of her book project. Dr. Phillips is an associate director for the International Perceptions of Pregnancy Researcher's Network, and co-convenes the Pregnancy and Motherhood working group for the American Society for Theatre Research. At Villanova, she teaches the core Dramaturgy sequence, and has designed the special topics classes Shakespeare on Stage and New Play Development.



JAMES I JAMES, MFA RESIDENT DIRECTOR

is an Assistant Professor of Theatre and a Philadelphia-based actor and playwright. He has appeared regionally at The Arden Theatre Company, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Wilma Theater, Baltimore Center Stage and InterAct Theatre Company. James' plays include *WHITE*, *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington*, *Moon Man Walk*, *The Threshing Floor* and *Osiris: Redux*. In 2017, he received the Whiting Award for Drama and was granted a Pew Fellow Residency in California. In 2015, he was awarded a Pew Fellowship and the Kesselring Honorable Mention Prize. In 2011, he received an Independence Foundation Fellowship in Performing Arts to train and create a new solo piece with Emmanuelle Delpuch and Shavon Norris called *FRoNTiN*. His Barrymore Awards include the 2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Theatre Artist, awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for *Superior Donuts* and *Angels in America*, and, most recently, the 2014 Barrymore for Outstanding Direction of a Play for his work on *The Brothers Size*. James is a member of the InterAct Core Writers Group and



a mentor for The Foundry. He received a BA in Drama from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and an MFA in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. James teaches Acting and Collaborative Theatre Making.



VISION AND FORM, PROF RESIDENT DIRECTOR

sional dramaturg and theatre historian, who completed her doctorat Arciunte landi ut unt, asime consequi voluptat quis volorit mil min nissita conem qui temodis atius eius nest lamus alistiu? Em incidit dolorum lautas et, commolu ptatur simpore praestrunt accupta ecabor asinti cullacerit am, ut inimusdae volorum estiae de simagnit minvel incit expliquia consequunto quamenetum voloremquam quae nihit mo molum ni qui vit evelecto moluptibus et aut endem num et audis repedisseque consed quis et ut velitatur, occum reriaturi berunt esti nem fuga. Ictur serit, cus solorep rorestium que mincia quam et event rem. Et platemporepe laborum nos doloria ndemporis accus, tentint, quatur? Ibustum liquias at volupta tiorum dit hilistibus, consectem dolupta quatur? Udam si ut aut voles asitaspel iusam, quator esequib equam accaerum dolo velestis ma consequassit experibus acerciantis sequame ea doluptam harum dolecab illenectur at et aut ant optaturem quid unt. ccaerum dolo velestis ma consequas.

“ I love this program because it has introduced me to aspects of theatre that I would have never been able to experience in just one program anywhere else. I am researching, performing, and becoming an arts administrator, and you can't get that anywhere else. ”

-Sisi Wright, '18

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

-CJ Miller, '17





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, 2017 - 2018

\$770 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%.

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 of \$16,245* per academic year and require 300 hours/semester. Part-time assistantships come with tuition remission and a stipend of \$8,122* per academic year and require 200 hours/semester. The second is a tuition scholarship, which includes tuition remission and requires 100 hours/semester.

The Theatre Department offers a limited number of competitive graduate assistantships in the following areas: set construction, costume construction, properties construction and public relations.

Tuition scholarships are available in acting and research.

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.

**rates subject to change*



SPECIAL TUITION REDUCTION FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Given its Augustinian mission and heritage, Villanova University has long maintained a special commitment to the teaching profession. Specifically, the training of teachers and administrators who have dedicated their professional lives to the education of subsequent generations holds a valued position within the graduate efforts of the University.

As a practical expression of this dedication to the teaching profession, the University has adopted a special tuition plan for primary- and secondary-school teachers and administrators enrolled in a graduate class in any program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This plan is also for teachers and administrators in Catholic schools and for teachers and administrators in public or private schools that are not affiliated with the Catholic Church.

This discount applies to individuals in any Graduate Program in Arts and Sciences at Villanova University. Teachers and administrators at Catholic schools receive a 40% tuition reduction from the standard tuition rate. Teachers and administrators at private or public non-Catholic schools receive a 20% tuition reduction from the standard tuition rate.

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.



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY THEATRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A complete MA application should include:

- Graduate Student Application
- Resume/CV
- Writing Sample
- Statement of Goals
- 3 Recommendations (Practical Certificate students only need 2 recommendations)
- Unofficial Transcripts
- GRE
- The online Assistantship and Scholarship Application (if applying for funding)
- Headshot (professional preferred)

A complete Research Scholarship application should include:

- Your completed Graduate Assistantship and Tuition Scholar Application
- A CV of your relevant experience
 - This may be the same CV you submit with your general application

A complete Assistantship Application should include:

- Your completed Graduate Assistantship and Tuition Scholar Application
- An electronic or physical portfolio (optional but suggested)
 - May highlight costuming, prop work, set construction, PR/Marketing skills, etc.

A complete Acting Scholarship Application should include:

- Your completed Graduate Assistantship and Tuition Scholar Application
- Headshot

Materials should be electronically uploaded into both online applications.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for any and all funding opportunities.

Auditions are held for Acting Scholarship applicants and interviews are held for Research Scholarship and all Assistantship applicants.



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY
IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.®

“The high quality of the professional work of the school’s graduates is a continuing tribute to the success of the program.”

-Main Line Ticket



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

During the online application process, enter the name and email address of your recommenders. They will receive a request for a digital submission. We cannot accept letters of recommendation directly from our applicants.

STATEMENT OF GOALS

Your statement of goals should be 500 to 1,500 words, articulating your aspirations upon completing this degree.

WRITING SAMPLE

For the writing sample, you should submit a research paper that shows us your writing style and potentially your research interests. Papers should be at least five pages and no more than 15 pages. If you don't have a research paper you can also submit dramaturgical notes or production reviews.

UNDERGRADUATE GPA AND TRANSCRIPTS

A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is expected for admission.

You do not need to have a theatre degree to apply to the program. Our students matriculate into the program from a wide variety of undergraduate majors, spanning the humanities and the sciences. The result is a vibrant, diverse community of scholars with a passion for theatre as a common denominator.

Unofficial transcripts must be uploaded with your application. If you are admitted, your official transcripts must be sent to:

Villanova University
Office of Graduate Studies, Kennedy Hall
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085

GRE SCORES AND GPA

GRE scores are required for admission. However, if you graduated from your undergraduate institution five or more years ago, we may be able to waive your GRE. You can request a GRE waiver by emailing the Theatre Program Coordinator. Generally, our programs expect applicants to have GRE scores in the 60th percentile or higher. However, the GRE is just one of several factors taken into account when admissions decisions are made, and admissions committees look at every aspect of an individual's application.

FEES

A non-refundable \$50 application fee will be waived if you attend an Open House. There are three Open House opportunities:

- Graduate Studies Open House
- Graduate Studies Online Information Session
- Theatre Department Open House

Regardless of which Open House opportunity you choose, please ask your Open House representative to provide you with the discount code.

INTERVIEWS AND AUDITIONS

You are not required to audition or interview to be accepted into the Villanova Theatre Graduate Program. Only those applying for the Acting Scholarship are required to audition. Auditioners are expected to prepare two contrasting monologues, e.g. comedic and dramatic or classic and contemporary. Only those applying for an Assistantship or a Research Scholarship are required to interview.



DEADLINES

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

- o Fall – March 1st, but applications may be considered until August 1st
- o Spring – November 15th, but applications may be considered until December 1st
- o 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 available spaces in the program may fill.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Villanova University's Office of International Student Services assists students from outside of the United States in adjusting to Villanova and the surrounding community. The office provides information and advice about visas and immigration, housing and employment, health care and other questions related to living and studying in the United States. Contact the Office of International Student Services at (610) 519-8017.

“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. Also, my theatre history knowledge has been very helpful, especially working with Broadway producers.”



—Emily Poworoznek, '14
Account Coordinator, AKA NYC

“The MA in Theatre afforded me the chance to work in many different areas of theatre and explore more fully those options where I felt I excelled. 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

Visiting Lecturer in the Dept. of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
Adjunct Professor in Conservatory of Performing Arts, Point Park University
Instructor of Dramaturgy, Carnegie Mellon University



**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY.
APPLY TODAY.**



THEATRE.VILLANOVA.EDU