

Theatre & Dance

Wake Forest

Wake Forest gave me an education in both the academic and production aspects of theatre. Through Theatre History and Dramatic Literature courses, I learned how to read and analyze theatre. Through Voice, Movement, Acting and Directing classes, I brought all my book work to life. The faculty is devoted to helping students grow to be better artists and better people. Each student can find an outlet (whether it be costumes, lights, playwriting or acting) in Wake Forest's Department of Theatre and Dance.

—MEG MCKEE ('03)



Financial Aid

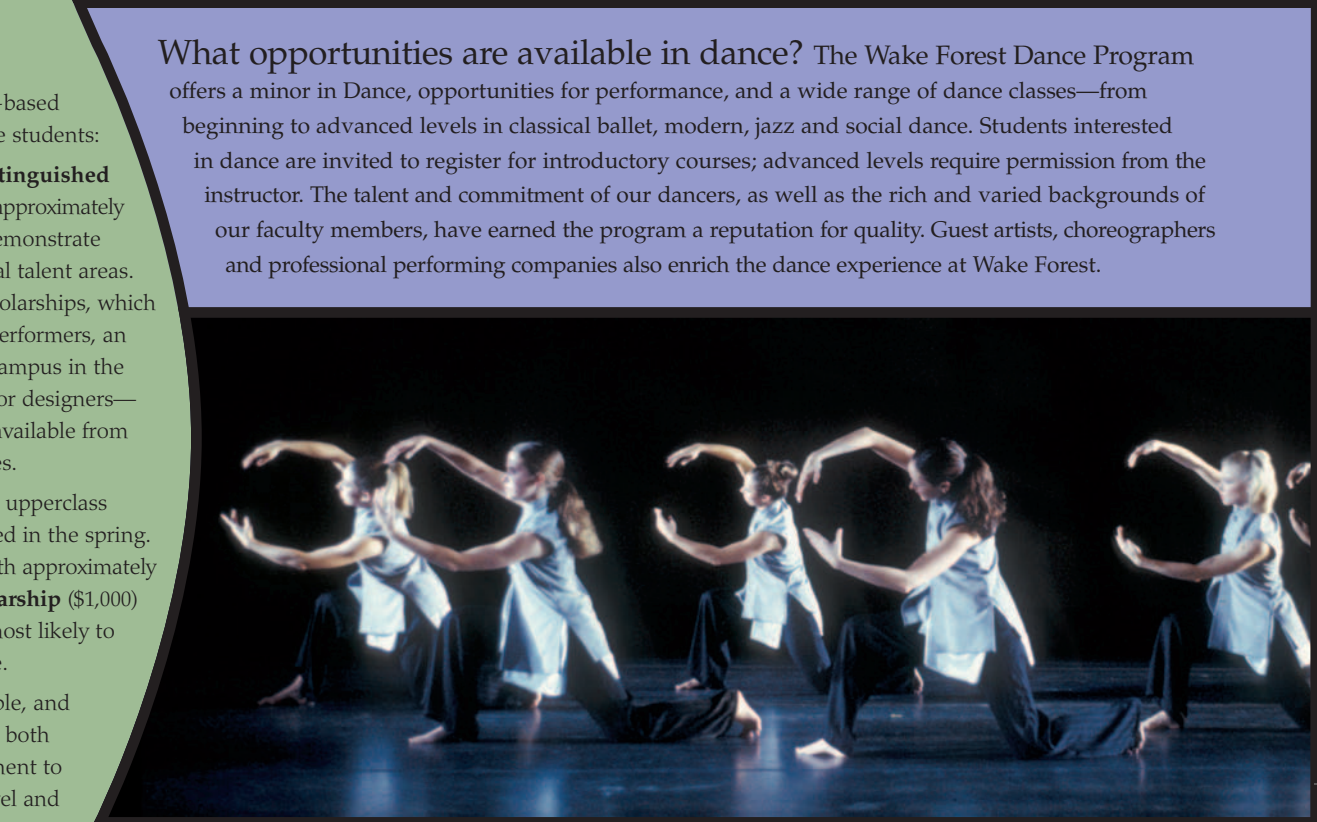
In addition to extensive need-based aid scholarships, there are also some merit-based programs available to theatre and dance students:

The Presidential Scholarship for Distinguished Achievement offers scholarships worth approximately half tuition to entering students who demonstrate significant achievement in one of several talent areas. Theatre and Dance each offer these scholarships, which require a separate application and, for performers, an audition video. Finalists are invited to campus in the spring for interviews, auditions, and—for designers—portfolio presentations. Information is available from the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.

The **Jordan Theatre Scholarship** is for upperclass theatre majors. Applications are accepted in the spring. Currently three to four scholarships worth approximately \$2,500 are available. One **Collins Scholarship** (\$1,000) is awarded each year to the freshman most likely to be successful in the professional theatre.

Student assistantships are also available, and there are additional, limited funds from both the University and the Theatre Department to assist students with theatre-related travel and attendance at conferences.

What opportunities are available in dance? The Wake Forest Dance Program offers a minor in Dance, opportunities for performance, and a wide range of dance classes—from beginning to advanced levels in classical ballet, modern, jazz and social dance. Students interested in dance are invited to register for introductory courses; advanced levels require permission from the instructor. The talent and commitment of our dancers, as well as the rich and varied backgrounds of our faculty members, have earned the program a reputation for quality. Guest artists, choreographers and professional performing companies also enrich the dance experience at Wake Forest.



Quick Facts

FACULTY | STAFF

Theatre: Trevor Anderson, Sharon Andrews, Jonathan Christman, Leslie Collins, J.K. Curry, Brook Davis, James Dodding (Emeritus), John E.R. Friedenber, Cynthia Gendrich, Carol Lavis, Frank Ludwig, Leah Roy, Harold Tedford (Emeritus), Mary Wayne-Thomas (Chair), Lisa Weller

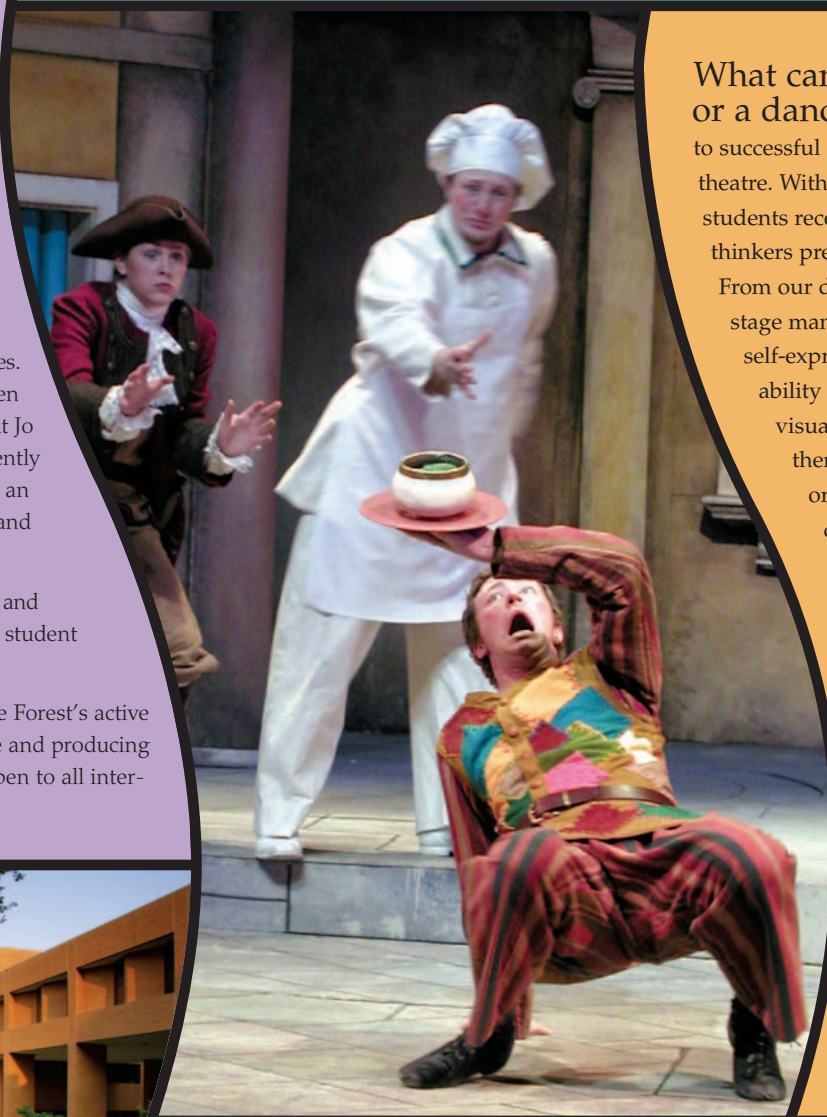
Dance: Nina Lucas (Director of Dance), Diann Sichel, Fanchon Cordell, Brantly Shapiro, Robert Simpson

FACILITIES: Two fully equipped theatres. The 340-seat Mainstage Theatre has been called the jewel in the crown of the great Jo Mielziner's architectural career. The recently renovated Ring Theatre seats 120 and is an intimate thrust theatre used for classes and productions.

PRODUCTION SEASON: Four plays and two dance concerts each year. Numerous student productions in the Ring Theatre.

ANTHONY ASTON PLAYERS: Wake Forest's active student theatre organization is a service and producing arm of the theatre. Anthony Aston is open to all interested Wake Forest students.

How can I join the Wake Forest Dance Company? Membership in the Wake Forest Dance Company is by audition. Auditions are held in the fall. Former company members must audition each year, and each company member is required to enroll in one technique class the semester in which he or she performs. Students are not required to minor in dance. The company is generally comprised of more experienced student dancers. The company produces two concerts a year: the Fall Faculty/ Guest Artist Concert and the Spring Student-Choreographed Concert.



What can I do with a theatre major or a dance minor?

Students have gone on to successful careers both inside and outside the theatre. With the broad liberal arts education all students receive, graduates emerge as strong critical thinkers prepared to face life's many challenges. From our discipline, performers, directors, designers, stage managers and choreographers learn clear self-expression, and therefore grow in their ability to communicate well with others orally, visually and in writing. They also learn about themselves and develop self-confidence, organizational and analytical skills, and creative approaches to problem-solving. Theatre majors and dance minors have become actors, directors, dancers, stage managers, designers, theatre artistic directors, professors, cabaret singers and members of comedy troupes. Others have made careers as journalists, architects, lawyers, teachers, doctors, department store buyers, art directors and more. Many graduates also serve on boards for civic arts organizations. Whether you decide to work in theatre, dance or another profession, you will be well-prepared.



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT of
THEATRE and DANCE

Scales Fine Arts Center, Room 219
336.758.5294

P.O. Box 7264
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7264

www.wfu.edu/theatre



Wake Forest's excellent theatre classes are so small and concentrated that there's no room NOT to push yourself and grow. And—unlike in most conservatory programs—you actually get to audition and be in shows before you're a second semester junior or even a senior in college. That's one of the big things I'm thankful for in having gone here, and my acting chops are definitely right with others my age, if not better, because of everyone in Wake Forest's Department of Theatre and Dance.

LEE BRIGGS ('02)



Students with both academic and artistic ability will find a comfortable home at Wake Forest University. Our students work closely with a vigorous faculty on a wide variety of projects. They enjoy the benefits of a nationally ranked university with small classes, impressive facilities, and an active theatre and dance program, and they grow as both scholars and artists. College is for learning—through books and lectures, certainly, but also through self-exploration and creative expression. We at Wake Forest believe that excellence in both arts and academics is not only possible but also desirable.

How can I get involved in theatre and dance? It's easy. Take a class or get involved by seeking out other students who are also interested in what we do. When you arrive on campus in the fall, watch for the Theatre and Dance Open House, e-mail anyone in the department, or drop by the second floor of the Scales Fine Arts Center. Watch for auditions for the Dance Company, and also keep your eyes open for "New Faces"—a fun Saturday workshop that lets you get to know current theatre students, faculty and other newcomers. Anthony Aston meetings are also a good way to meet other theatre devotees; just drop by the Ring Theatre at 11 a.m. any Tuesday. You'll be welcomed by both students and faculty.

Will I get to perform?

Almost certainly! Unlike larger schools, where you might compete with graduate students or a huge number of undergraduate majors, Wake Forest's relatively small department and large number of classes and productions makes performance possible for almost everyone.

Will I get to direct?

Definitely, if you are a theatre major. If you are not a theatre major, you may be able to direct through Anthony Aston Players or Living Parables. You might also stage independent productions outside the department. We are supportive of all theatrical activity on campus.

Will I get to design? If you show proficiency in design, you will find plentiful outlets for developing your talents. You will also be encouraged to design for student productions in the Ring Theatre, and if you show a particular aptitude for set, costume, lighting or sound design, you could even design a Mainstage production. Our design professors are available for mentoring on every design project you undertake.

Will I get to work backstage? Yes. Everyone is encouraged to learn the workings of the theatre from all sides! Board operators, stage managers, assistant stage managers, grips, wardrobe and makeup assistants, painters, carpenters, stitchers and electricians are always needed and appreciated.

Are there student-directed and student-produced shows?

Student productions are abundant. Each senior theatre major directs a one-act play, supported by student designers, actors and staff, as well as a faculty mentor. Our active student theatre group, the Anthony Aston Players, sponsors entirely student-produced plays; recent offerings have included *All in the Timing*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Bash*, *I Dream Before I Take the Stand* and many others.

What kinds of shows will I get to do?

A balanced array of plays and dance styles is presented each year. Our season always features a variety of contemporary and traditional pieces. For instance, the four Mainstage productions in 2004-05 included *The Secret Rapture*, *Catch-22*, *Antigone* and *Twelfth Night*. Two dance concerts per year include jazz, ballet, modern and social dance pieces. Guest choreographers create pieces for dance students each year, and student members of the dance company are allowed to choreograph for the spring concert.

Do I have to be a theatre major/minor or dance minor to get involved?

No. Some of our most active performers and technicians come from other disciplines. Students majoring in finance, biology, music, sociology, chemistry, philosophy and art have performed major roles and worked backstage on Wake Forest productions in the past few years.

What kinds of classes will I get to take?

Theatre classes include Acting (Acting I & II, Period & Style, Shakespeare, On-Camera Acting), Theatre History, Design and Production, Stagecraft, Lighting and Sound Design, Makeup, Costume Design, Dramatic Literature, Stage Management, Voice and Movement, Directing and more. Students can also gain course credit through the annual winter theatre trip to London. Career Services workshops and guest artist master classes supplement classroom learning. Dance offerings include Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Social Dance, Dance History and Composition. See the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for complete details.

