

## What theatre professionals say:

*Theatre studies provide students with a range of skills that can be usefully employed across occupations. Engaging with theatre arts shapes people to be articulate communicators, effective listeners, perceptive thinkers, and task-oriented leaders. Performing in the theatre or spending an evening as a spectator creates a sense of community that can ripple into wider social spheres. Theatre education prepares citizens to function effectively and joyfully in cultural life.*

- Jill Dolan, Professor of Theatre at the University of Texas at Austin

*Theater is about problem-solving. In a theater work, there are problems that presuppose various solutions, each quite different from the other, but all equally credible. Theater teaches us that there is more than one way to describe the same issue, equally revealing, equally compelling. It is another form of tolerance and understanding. Theater is about making choices!*

-Dean Donald Harris, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University

*My theatre education at the college level has given me the desire and respect for research, as well as the discipline and techniques which I apply to my work today.*

-Isaiah Washington, actor

## Source Material:

The bulk of material from this pamphlet comes from "Theatre Studies in Higher Education: Learning for a Lifetime," a publication of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Full text of the white paper can be found at ATHE's website:

<http://www.athe.org/resources/usefultools> (select "Learning for a Lifetime")

*To teach and to learn theatre, is to learn and to teach humanity.*

-Dr. Augusto Boal  
Author, *Theatre of the Oppressed*



## Purdue Theatre

PURDUE THEATRE

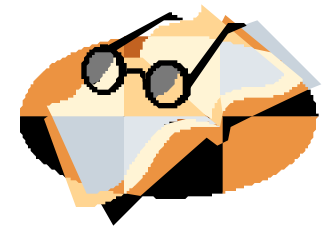
Yue-Kong Pao Hall for Visual & Performing Arts  
552 W. Wood St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Phone: (765) 494-3074  
Email: [theatre@purdue.edu](mailto:theatre@purdue.edu)



## THEATRE STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

*The future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind—creators and empathizers, pattern recognizers, and meaning makers.*

-Daniel H. Pink  
Author, *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*



PURDUE THEATRE

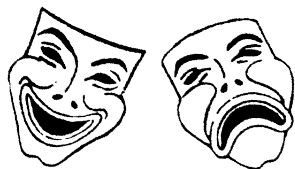
Tel: (765) 494-3074

# Theatre Studies

An education in theatre and performance studies gives students useful tools to contribute to and create positive changes in the public as well as the private sphere. Theatre in higher education creates not only strong theatre artists and articulate theatre educators, but also effective public leaders and compassionate visionaries in all professions.

*Young people who learn the arts do better in every phase of their lives.*  
-Meryl Streep, actor

Richard S. Gurin, President and CEO of Binney & Smith Inc. (makers of Crayola products) sees the value of theatre education to other applications, stating, "Higher education in theatre and the other arts provides students with crucial life skills that are fundamental to success in the business world, regardless of whatever career choice an individual decides to pursue. Effective interpersonal communication, group problem-solving ability, organizational skills, creative thinking, and enhanced self-esteem are all benefits of a quality arts education experience."



## Some Benefits of Theatre Studies:

- + **Students acquire skills in interpersonal communication and group problem-solving, for theatre is a collaborative art form.**
- + **The major in theatre arts or performance studies prepares students to pursue professional goals as artists and educators.**
- + **The study of theatre creates opportunities for cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary learning.**
- + **Theatre in higher education provides students with crucial life skills that they can utilize in a wide range of professions including business, government, law, the natural and social sciences, and industry.**
- + **Theatre training awakens the students' intuitive, perceptive capacities as well as their logical, analytical capacities.**
- + **Theatre in higher education encourages students to understand the unique history, theory, and practice of theatre and performance through intellectual and experiential investigation.**
- + **The study of theatre encourages the imagination, and through the imagination we can make significant, constructive change to our communities.**

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