Why consider the School of Theatre Arts at Illinois Wesleyan?

IWU’s School of Theatre Arts is committed to fostering the creative confidence of every student-artist. We identify their uniqueness, help them develop their “authentic voice,” and prepare them for a rich life after IWU.

We are a tightly knit group that celebrates the artist in all of us. Because ours is a highly selective program, IWU students experience close, personal instruction from an outstanding faculty who lead them through a rigorous, theatrical training. Our top-notch productions provide an array of opportunities for students to perform, design, and direct, bringing classroom learning to its feet, and empowering students to experience a variety of production positions. IWU students graduate knowing how to “make” theatre.

IWU has graduated some of the most successful, well respected show business professionals working in entertainment today. Our alumni include Oscar®, Emmy, and Tony Award nominees, Broadway producers, as well as countless talented performers, directors, playwrights, and designers, making their living as artists every single day!

We proudly offer four distinct degree programs which combine a professional, conservatory-style training with a nationally-ranked, multi-disciplinary education. It is precisely this blend that we believe leads our students to discover, refine, and live out their passions into “breakthrough” careers.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Jean MacFarland Kerr
Director and Associate Professor of Theatre Arts

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The IWU Advantage

Individual Attention
With a 4:1 student to faculty/staff ratio within the School of Theatre Arts, IWU prides itself on providing individual attention and mentorship to all students. With small class sizes and a student-focused curriculum, IWU offers dynamic and flexible professional training from faculty with years of professional industry experience.

Undergraduate Focus
As a wholly undergraduate institution, IWU students are never taught by or asked to compete with graduate students, allowing them far more opportunities to perform, direct, and design than at large schools.

The Cross-Disciplinary Advantage
With a commitment to a strong and broad education, the School of Theatre Arts ensures students leave with an understanding of the world beyond the performing arts and the ability to think critically. The unique approach combines conservatory style training with traditional liberal arts values, enhancing students’ abilities to understand, interpret, and create.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Majors:
The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting
The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre
The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design & Technology

Minors:
The Minor in Theatre Arts
The Minor in Theatre Dance
The Minor in Arts Management
The Minor in Theatre Design & Technology
The Minor in Film Studies

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

For All Degree Tracks
- Resume of theatre work
- Recent photo or headshot
- Interview application
- On-campus interview with faculty

BA in Theatre Arts
- Talent audition: Students wishing to audition for a talent award or talent scholarship may present either an acting audition or design portfolio.

BFA in Acting
- Pre-screen: Please visit getacceptd.com/iwutheatre for requirements and to submit
- Audition: Prepare two contrasting monologues that are within your casting age and range. They should be taken from modern plays (no Shakespeare, verse or dialects please). Select active monologues (not passive voice) that you feel express your current strengths as an actor. Each selection should be memorized, thoroughly rehearsed and one to two minutes in length.

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AUDITION DATES

November 23, 2019
January 25, 2020
February 8, 2020
February 22, 2020

SCHOLARSHIPS

Talent Awards, Scholarships and Grants
Scholarships are renewable for four years and are awarded on the basis of a combination of auditions/portfolio evaluations. Awards range up to $30,000 per year. Institutional need-based aid is also available.

THE SCHOOL OF

THEATRE ARTS

No. 7
Music Theatre Program in the U.S.
No. 15 in Design and Technology

— Onstage Blog

BFA in Music Theatre
- Pre-screen: Please visit getacceptd.com/iwutheatre for requirements and to submit
- Résumé and Headshot: Applicants must submit a recent headshot and a résumé of all theatre work.
- Application: Applicants must submit a completed copy of the Music Theatre application which will be sent to you one-two weeks prior to audition date.

The audition has four components:
- Dancing: The dance audition will be taught as a class, with warm up, followed by ballet and jazz combinations. Bring appropriate attire for dance, especially shoes.
- Acting: Prepare one monologue within your casting age range (adolescent to 30 years old and personality type. Monologues must be from a published play, not musicals, television shows or movies.
- Singing: Students should prepare two contrasting pieces (one ballad and one uptempo). One song should be written prior to 1970, and one after.

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