To Prospective Theatre Students,

The theatre program at Illinois Wesleyan is exceptional. As a professional school, our programs deliver comprehensive, rigorous theatrical training. As a tightly knit community, we nurture creativity, confidence and collaboration.

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

If you have dreams of high achievement and the drive to make them real, I invite you to consider the School of Theatre Arts at Illinois Wesleyan University, where creativity is informed by scholarship and study enriched by art.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Thomas Quinn,
Director and Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
Individual Attention

With IWU’s 10 to 1 student-teacher ratio, individual attention from our faculty is a given. Our class sizes allow each student the benefit of mentorship by members of our dedicated faculty, and very often, the relationships forged last a lifetime.

Faculty as Artists

Every member of the IWU Theatre Arts faculty is invested in the lifelong pursuit of theatre arts, keeping them current, involved and aware. During their off times you will find them performing, directing, training, and studying — furthering their understanding and love of this craft.

Liberal Arts Advantage

Because Illinois Wesleyan University’s commitment to an education is grounded in the liberal arts, our Theatre Arts students leave with a true advantage! They understand the world beyond the performing arts. This hallmark enhances their ability to understand, interpret, and create, while bringing relevancy and nuance to their work.

Undergraduates Only

Since IWU is entirely for undergraduates, our students have more opportunities to perform, direct, and design than students at larger schools.

Theatre Facilities

The School of Theatre Arts has a variety of performance and rehearsal facilities, including:

- Jerome Mirza Theatre, a fully equipped 273-seat proscenium/thrust theatre
- The E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick Laboratory Theatre, a “black box” theatre with flexible seating
- The Phoenix Theatre, a small space for experimental productions
- Dance Studios, used primarily for dance rehearsals

In addition, the School of Theatre Arts stages performances and concerts in the Hansen Student Center, Evelyn Chapel and the Joslin Atrium.
The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre is an interdisciplinary degree allowing a broad range of exploration in theatre as an artistic, scholarly and social discipline. This degree is flexible and each BA Theatre Arts student pursues a unique course of study, focusing on developing their skills and voice as an artist. The BA in Theatre is also well-suited for those wishing to double major or whose expertise spans more than one facet of the discipline. Students in the BA program have the full range of opportunities to participate in the production season and routinely hold leadership positions and play major roles.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting is for the student who aspires to an acting career. This well-rounded pre-professional curriculum includes applied training in acting, movement and voice. Students are immersed in both classical and contemporary acting styles ranging from Shakespeare to Acting for the Camera. The degree also includes academically oriented courses such as Theatre History and Dramatic Literature. Students are exposed to the technical areas through Theatre Laboratory and production experiences.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre is for the student who aspires to a professional performance career. This well-rounded, pre-professional curriculum requires each student to enroll in a balanced mix of acting, voice and dance courses. These include both applied skills courses such as Stage Makeup, Music Theory and Broadway Dance Repertory, and academically oriented courses such as Music Theatre History and Introduction to Dramatic Literature. Students are also exposed to the technical areas through Theatre Laboratory and production experiences.

“...My education at Illinois Wesleyan has prepared me to be adaptable in any situation, not only in my career but in life!”

— Ian Coulter-Buford, BFA Music Theatre ’12

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in **Theatre Design & Technology** is for the student who aspires to a career as a designer, stage manager or technician for the theatre. The curriculum includes applied training in drawing, rendering, sound, stagecraft, construction, hand and computer drafting, painting and stage management as well as design courses in costume, scenery and lighting. In addition, students will take academically oriented courses such as Introduction to Dramatic Literature, Directing and Theatre History. BFA designers and technicians will apply their skills to our production program with the goal of having managed or designed a Main Stage or Laboratory Theatre production prior to graduation.

The Minor in **Theatre Arts** provides students majoring in another field the opportunity to pursue theatrical interest at the college level. Theatre minors take performance, technical and academic courses in theatre, and participate actively in our production season.

The Minor in **Theatre Dance** provides students training in dance (modern, jazz, tap and ballet) and choreography. It encompasses the physical workings of the body in dance technique, as well as the creative and theatrical aspects of the discipline.

The Minor in **Arts Management** (offered by the Department of Business Administration) is for the student who aspires to the management of their own theatre, or to work in arts development. It provides an excellent complement to the BA in Theatre Arts.
Student Groups
At Illinois Wesleyan there are countless ways to be involved in theatre other than in class and on stage. These groups promote creativity and leadership and foster actors, directors, playwrights, designers, dancers and comedians.

Masquers is the student service organization for the School of Theatre Arts. The Music Theatre Society takes its roots from the City Center Encores! and produces musicals in concert. Jm7* improvisation troupe does all forms of improv, has weekly classes and performs throughout the year. Shringara Theatre is our multi-cultural theatre company producing plays and creating a platform where actors and directors can share their views. Cohesion Dance Company is an auditioned dance company. In addition, there is an annual student choreographed dance concert. Check out the website for more information about other student groups.

Nearly one in two Illinois Wesleyan students choose to study abroad for a semester, a year or during May Term.

Study Abroad
In order to provide a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for Illinois Wesleyan students who chose to study abroad, the university has affiliated with a number of study abroad programs, affording students the opportunity to study in one of over 70 countries. Of particular interest to Theatre students are the IES Abroad program in Dublin, which offers direct enrollment in the National Theatre School of Ireland-Gaiety School of Acting (semester or summer); IFSA-Butler’s Rehearsing Change program in Ecuador (semester); and Arcadia University’s program at the Royal Conservatory of Scotland (semester). Other non-affiliated programs on which Theater students have studied include the Moscow Art Theater Semester and the British American Drama Academy in London (semester or summer). During May Term, a changing variety of travel seminars are offered under the guidance of faculty members with topics ranging from photography to language immersion.

Chicago Arts Programs
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Chicago Arts Program is a semester that immerses students in the art scene of Chicago. Students live with a roommate in a studio apartment in downtown Chicago, work at an arts-related internship, take courses and explore an area of the arts in an independent study project. Students attend openings, plays, readings, concerts, screenings, rehearsals, recording sessions, installations, performances and more. They meet the people who are making and presenting art in Chicago and learn about what they do, how they do it and how they got where they are today.

Internships
Theatre Arts students quite often participate in pre-professional internship programs during their careers at Illinois Wesleyan. Some result from our affiliation with the Great Lakes College Association (GLCA), which places interns with professional theatres, television studios, casting agencies and the like, in New York City. Internships can also be arranged in such theatrical centers as Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Internships are available in design, performance and management. Recent examples include student internships in performance and technology at the MUNY (St. Louis), in lighting at Stages (St. Louis) and as a stage manager at Berkshire Theatre Festival (Massachusetts). Internships can be taken for academic credit during the school year, and the faculty is eager to help create an internship that will be of value to each student.

“IWU provides an essential, diversified theatrical training with so many hands-on opportunities. By the time I graduated, I had the tools and confidence to enter the professional world. I was so well-prepared; my internship offered me a job and my Equity card right after graduation!”
—Brian Bogin, BFA Theatre Design & Technology ’99

Broadway & National Tours: War Horse, Elf, The People in the Picture, Wicked, Spamalot, The Phantom of the Opera, Urinetown, Chicago, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas (AEA Stage Manager).
BA in Theatre Arts
• Resume of theatre work
• Recent photo or headshot
• Interview Application
• Interview
• 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
• Prescreen: Please visit getacceptd.com/iwutheatre for requirements and to submit
• Resume of theatre work
• Recent photo or headshot
• Interview Application
• 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.
• Interview

Photos, top and middle left: Faculty Choreographed Dance Concert, 2017. Middle right: Ladyish, 2017.
BFA in Music Theatre

• Prescreen: Please visit getacceptd.com/iwutheatre for requirements and to submit

• Resume of theatre work

• Recent photo or headshot

• Interview Application

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 two contrasting monologues within your casting age and range (adolescent to 30 years old) and personality type; no Shakespeare, verse or dialects please. Each one should be approximately one minute in length. Avoid text from musical theatre librettos. Each selection should be memorized and thoroughly rehearsed.

• Singing: Prepare vocal selections from music theatre literature, one ballad and one up-tempo. Cut the song to 32 bars of music (do not sing the whole song). An accompanist will be provided; bring your sheet music and make sure your cuts are clearly marked and you are prepared to talk with the accompanist. Please note that a 32-bar cut is sufficient, but you may be asked to sing the entire song. Each selection should be memorized and thoroughly rehearsed.

• Interview

BFA in Design & Technology

• Resume of theatre work

• Recent photo or headshot

• Interview Application

• Portfolio: The portfolio should represent examples of your theatrical work in the form of costume sketches, scenic sketches, paint elevations, light and sound plots, hand or computer drafting or sketches and prompt books from theatrical productions and production photography. Rough design sketches, sketchbooks and construction process photography are welcomed. Other examples may include light and sound paperwork and cues, programs/posters, sewing and patterning projects, craft and properties projects, design collage boards and background research. Additional evidence of your artistic abilities may include fine art photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry and printmaking.

• Interview
I’ve concluded that to be a professional artist is to be a professional learner and a professional risk taker. My time at Illinois Wesleyan was the crucial foundation that helped install in me the heart of a lifelong learner. The professors and faculty at IWU helped me establish tools and skills that provided the launch pad for my career. Each student is treated as a unique individual and pushed beyond their boundaries while being supported along the way.”

— Annie Simpson (right), BFA Music Theatre ’13

Talent Awards, Scholarships and Grants
Illinois Wesleyan is again considered one of Kiplinger’s “Best Values in Private Colleges.” We are pleased to be able to offer scholarships based on talent and/or academic performance. Students planning to major in the BFA Acting, Design and Tech, Music Theatre or BA in Theatre programs will be considered for the Alumni Fine Arts for Theatre Scholarships or Alumni Fine Arts for Music Theatre Scholarships. These scholarships are renewable for four years and are awarded on the basis of a combination of auditions or portfolio evaluations and high school academic performance. **Awards range up to $25,000 per year.**
Each academic year, the School of Theatre Arts presents

4 MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS

3-4 lab productions
1-2 dance productions
8-12 student productions
4-6 guest artists
1 Chicago showcase
Illinois Wesleyan University is located in Bloomington-Normal, a two and a half hour drive from Chicago and St. Louis.