The Department of Drama

BA Student Handbook

An Introductory Guide to surviving all the Drama

Cover Design By Paul Twa
Acknowledgements / Special Thanks

Written by Jessica Watson

Before we begin, I would like to thank everybody who has helped and supported me in the creation of this handbook. Without them, this resource would never have come to be.

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Special Thanks to;
Jane Heather
(who has helped me with this project since day one)

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This handbook was written during the summer of 2015, and will be updated yearly by the Coordinators of the BA Program.
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It's been a long, warm summer, but now it's time to return to our studies, to ‘real life’, to an excess of Drama – not necessarily a bad thing! This Student Handbook was created to act as a guidebook for new and returning students pursuing their Bachelor of Arts in the Department of Drama. It will (hopefully) contain all of the information you need to go about your day-to-day activities in the program, and help you settle in and feel comfortable in your new environment. The book contains helpful hints about how to get involved in the department, and tips for making the most of your time here, as well as little contributions by past and present students. Your education is really what you make of it, but here in the Fine Arts Building, you will find yourself surrounded by caring, creative, hard-working individuals who will always support your pursuits.

Have an amazing semester – I’m sure you will love it here!

- Jessica Watson

Address from the Chair

Welcome to the Department of Drama! This is a vibrant department with a history of deep commitment, joy, hard work, brilliant invention, and dedicated focus on working collaboratively to produce theatre experiences of the highest caliber.

The old adage of “you get out of it what you put into it” holds true for all the pursuits available to you in acting, directing, stage management, design, technical production, dramaturgy, and critical theory studies. You are surrounded by creative individuals on all levels of experience who are hungry to learn, to produce, to create.

I invite you to fill yourself with as many varied experiences as possible: the world of drama studies and theatre is open to you here. We are happy to travel with you in passion and hard work to influence the social discourse of our time.

Challenge your own abilities and interests. This is an extraordinary time in your life to learn and grow. We love it and actively promote it.

Welcome.

- Betty Moulton

Interim Department Chair (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)
## People to know in the Department

### Coordinators and Advisors

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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Jane coordinates and troubleshoots the BA program, and acts as Student Advisor. See her about curriculum issues.

If you have any questions about the Drama Honours program or are looking for more information, David is your man!

Connie is a resource to help students with their registration needs, as well as timetabling and other course related activities, such as course outlines, grading, and course evaluations.

### Administrative Staff

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Working in the Timms, the Production Staff are often quite busy, so try not to bother them unnecessarily – that being said, they are all lovely, wonderful, helpful people, so don’t be afraid to ask them questions, or just say hi!

Graduating Baby Clowns from Jan Henderson’s 407 Clown course. - Photo by Kiersten Fiehler
~ Our Philosophy ~

The objectives of the BA Drama Major Degree Program are;

~ To actively foster **diversity** and **inclusivity**, and welcome students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, circumstances, learning and communication styles and interests.

~ To develop students’ **self-motivation** and **self-reliance** in order to generate an independent sense of inquiry and discernment within a liberal arts context.

~ To **educate** students and citizens who, through theatre, are capable of grappling effectively with challenging ideas, as well as understanding, assessing, questioning and influencing the socio-political and cultural world in which they live.

~ To **cultivate** in students a personal **artistic, ethical, and critical understanding of theatre** that will prepare them for further education and experience in drama, and in many fields besides drama.

~ To **encourage** students to discover and develop their intellectual and creative potential by means of a comprehensive introduction to theatre, including play and performance analysis, the socio-historic context of plays, the creative dramatic process, and the theoretical approach to performance.

~ To **enable** students to develop their critical and practical skills for theatre in general, and for particular sub-disciplines of drama.

~ To **support** the students in their pursuit of independent creative and research projects that reflect their vision of theatre and of the world.

~ To integrate the theory and practice of theatre and performance in both curricular and extracurricular work.
Decoding the Department

A brief list of common facilities, acronyms and jargon you’ll hear in the halls.

**KIVA** – A classroom and rehearsal space in the Education Building North 2-103

**New Works** – The department’s annual festival of new plays. The Festival goes up in February each year

**SAB** – A classroom and rehearsal space in the South Academic Building 1-58 (hence the acronym).

**SPS** – Second Playing Space is a black box facility located in the Timms Centre

**BLT** – The Bleviss Laboratory Theatre, FAB 1-63

**Corner Stage** – FAB 2-51 (200 seat theatre)

**FAB** – The Fine Arts Building. Houses Faculty offices, some grad student offices, and the main department office (FAB 3-146), as well as various rehearsal spaces and classrooms. Home of the **BLT, Corner Stage, and the Sandra Faye Guberman Reading Room**

**Guberman (Gube)** – The Sandra Faye Guberman Reading Room is a small reading room with a collection of plays and theatre books

**TCA** – Timms Centre for the Arts. Houses the **Studio Theatre Mainstage** and **SPS**, as well as a graduate student carrel room

Waiting for change is futile – BE the change.

Never be afraid to ask for help. You don’t have to pursue your goals alone! There are people who will support you every step of the way.

“Godot says, ‘Running late, smiley face, winky face’”

Perhaps the best thing about the department is the people. Everyone is really friendly and genuinely cares about you—students, teachers, and staff. I speak from my own experience; if you spend time getting to know people and opening yourself up to them, you’ll make the best friends you could ask for.

– Jackson Longworth, BA Drama Honors
Programs in the Drama Department

University is complicated – it’s hard to stay on track with your courses! What courses to take, when to take them, what is required to take what?... Here is a short guide to help you plan your education, and prevent your brain from exploding from an information overload.

BA Drama Major

Program Requirements (entry Fall 2013 and onwards)

BACHELOR OF ARTS (DRAMA) MAJOR

Student must complete 120 course weights cw* to complete degree
Course Weights (cw) indicated by *
All courses worth *3 except DR 457 Production/Performance, which is worth *6
DR indicates Drama Course
(F) Indicates that the course is offered in Fall Term; (W) indicates the Winter Term
Additional information can be found on the Drama Course Pre-Requisite Chart

YEAR 1 (*30)

Required:
DR 150 Introduction to Dramatic Process (F) →
DR 103 Critical Analysis of Playtexts (W) →
• Junior English (*6)
• Language other than English (*6)
• *6 Group Two (Humanities)
• *6 Group Three (Social Sciences)
• *6 Study of Science

Refer to Arts Chart 1: BA Basic Requirements

YEAR 2

Required:
DR 208 Theatre history I (F)
DR 203 Performance Analysis (W)
DR 257 Scene Study I (F or W)
DR 279 Stagecraft/Design (F or W)
Remaining *6 from Group 2, Group 3, and Study of sciences not done in Year 1
*6 of courses toward your Minor Subject Requirement

Strongly Recommended:
DR 240 Oral Communication
DR 259 Performer-Created Theatre

Please Note: Drama 240 and 259 are prerequisites for certain 300- and 400-level courses.
YEAR 3 (*30)

Please note: not all courses are offered every year. Check Bear Tracks to confirm; underlined courses are prerequisites for some 400-level courses:

**Required:**
DR 308 plus two of DR 302, 305, 306, 327, 406 or 409

**DR Options:** DR 307, 327, 331, 357, 361, 383, 391

Courses towards your Minor Requirement; check Minor Subject requirements, which vary by subject

YEAR 4 (*30)

Please note that (F) and (W) indicates Term when course is traditionally offered; not all courses are offered every year; check Bear Tracks to confirm.

**DR Options:** 406 (F), 407 Special Topics (F or W), 409 (W), 427 (F), 452 (F), 453 (F), 454 (F), 457 (W) (*6), 483 (F), 492

DR 507 Independent Study can also be taken with special permission.

Courses towards your Minor Requirement; check Minor Subject requirements, which vary by subject

Please note: By the end of the four-year BA Drama Major degree program, the student must have successfully taken a minimum of *9 at the 400-level or above.

**For additional information contact:**
Connie Golden, Department of Drama Undergraduate Advisor
connie.golden@ualberta.ca

“I love how much the BA challenges your creativity – you get a taste of all aspects of theatre! I learned that I love design, and how I can integrate design elements into my work as an Actor and Director.
- Jessica Watson, BA Major

Drama 103 Final performance of “Antigone” – photo by Jessica Watson

BA/BEd Combined Degree

The program requirements for the BA/BEd combined degree are quite convoluted, and currently under construction. For more information, you should set up an appointment with the Drama Undergraduate Advisor.
BA Drama Honours

**Go Deeper...**

Program Requirements

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (DRAMA) HONOURS**

*Students must have a GPA of 3.3 in all Drama courses, as well as 3.0 overall in their previous *30 to enter the Honours program, and must maintain these GPAs to be promoted to the following year, and to successfully complete the Honours program.*

- Students must complete 120 cw* to complete this degree; students can apply for the Honours Drama Program after their first year of the BA Program
- Students completing Honours in Drama require a minimum of *48, maximum *72 in Drama courses including the junior (100’s) and senior (200’s and higher) level
- Course Weights (cw) indicated by *
- All courses worth *3 except DR 457 Production/Performance, which is worth *6
- DR indicates Drama Course
- (F) Indicates that the course is offered in Fall Term; (W) indicates the Winter Term

**YEAR 1 (*30)**

**Required:**

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<tr>
<td>DR 150 Introduction to Dramatic Process (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior English (*6)</td>
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<td>Language other than English (*6)</td>
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<td>*6 Group Two (Humanities)</td>
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<td>*6 Group Three (Social Sciences)</td>
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<td>*6 Study of Science</td>
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*Both courses are essential for proceeding into 2nd year courses.*

2010 ABBEDAM Production of “Crazyface” - photo by Gary Wong
YEAR 2
**Required:**
DR 208 Theatre history I (F)
DR 203 Performance Analysis (W)
DR 257 Scene Study I (F or W)
DR 279 Stagecraft/Design (F or W)
Remaining *6 from Group 2, Group 3, and Study of sciences not done in Year 1

**Strongly Recommended:**
DR 240 Oral Communication
DR 259 Performer-Created Theatre

**Please Note:** Drama 240 and 259 are prerequisites for certain 300- and 400-level courses.
- Completing a **Minor** is not a requirement for Honours, but students are welcome to include it in their program.

YEAR 3 (*30)
**Required:** DR 308 The Modernist Stage
DR 306, 406, and 409 alternate in the timetable from year to year. Honours students are required to complete these courses during their Year 3 and Year 4, depending on which year they are offered.
Additional *15 (maximum) from other Drama options courses.

YEAR 4 (*30)
**Required:**
DR 401 Research and Critical Writing
DR 402 Honours Essay (will be completed under the supervision of a full-time faculty member of the Department, and will start in the Winter Term of the third year and continue through the fourth year).
DR 306, 406 and 409 alternate in the timetable from year to year. Honours students are required to complete these courses during their Year 3 and Year 4, depending on which year these courses are offered.

**For additional information contact:**
Connie Golden, Department of Drama Undergraduate Advisor
[connie.golden@ualberta.ca](mailto:connie.golden@ualberta.ca)

The Honours program offers students an additional opportunity to develop their research and critical skills, and to acquire solid knowledge of theory, while maintaining intensive creative and performative learning. Successful completion of an Honours degree puts students in an ideal position to pursue their graduate studies.
Minoring in Drama

As a Drama Minor, it may sometimes feel difficult to know what sorts of activities you can get involved in – can I take this class, am I allowed to participate in this activity, will I be allowed the same opportunities as everyone else?

The answer is: YES.

Just because you’re not Majoring in Drama does not mean that you are not allowed to participate in anything and everything you want! There’s a good chance you will not be taking as many Drama classes as a Major or BA/BEd student, so take every opportunity you get to get involved.

Being a Drama Minor, you will not have as many required Drama courses as some other students, which allows you to really go through the course catalogue and pick the courses which you are passionate about. Use your choices wisely, and who knows, maybe you’ll end up switching to a Major in Drama! (But no pressure).

There are some courses that give preference to those who are majoring in drama, so you may not be able to enroll, or will have to wait to see if there are still places available. It’s nothing personal, but there are a number of courses that Drama Majors MUST take in order to graduate – if you REALLY REALLY REALLY want to take a course, your best option is to ask for permission to enroll. Take initiative – if you are interested in a course, and then try to take it!

It is very important that every student, no matter their experience, or educational background, feels included in the department. As a Drama Minor, you are a part of the program as much as everyone else, so get involved, meet some new people, make some new friends, and have a blast.

The cast and crew of the 2015 New Works Festival Show, "Grey Matters" - photo by Gege Gui
Getting Involved

There are plenty of ways students can get involved, network, and try new things in the Drama Department. Whether you are a new or returning student, this guide can help you stay up to date on what is going on in the department, and how you can participate.

Senior Level Directing Projects

Drama 383/483

The third and fourth year directing classes are always looking for student actors to perform in their final projects. There is typically at least one Drama 383 class in each semester. They audition students to perform in their final performances, which take place in the rehearsal halls in FAB. Drama 483 takes place in the Fall Semester, and the student directors require actors to perform in both their midterm and final scenes, which are presented in Second Playing Space in the Timms. Both classes provide an excellent opportunity to network, and get to know the people in the department! These short scenes can provide an excellent opportunity to expand your repertoire, and help out your peers!

Sign-up sheets are will be posted in front of the Drama Office on the third floor – keep an eye open for posters advertising audition dates and times!

My five years in the BA/BEd combined program was both challenging and extremely rewarding. I was given the opportunity not only to create theatre but also to think about how it impacts society. If I could offer one piece of advice to anyone in the BA is this: get involved. Your classroom experience will give you a taste but you need those extra hours to really own your education.
– Dale MacDonald, BA/BEd Combined Alumnus

MFA Directing Projects

From time to time, Masters of Fine Arts Directing Candidates will put out audition notices for their projects. Make sure to check the callboard outside of the Drama Office, as audition slots fill up quickly, and these projects are MORE than worthwhile.

“Do not eat – Poison” Students prepare for the Quick and Dirty Festival (now Off-the-Cuff Cabaret) – photo by Rowan Hickie
Performances and Festivals

ABBEDAM

An acronym made up of BA, BEd and MA, ABBEDAM is an extra-curricular production company that, each year, presents a show that showcases the talents of students in the drama department. Founded in 1995 by Alex and Joan Heys Hawkins, ABBEDAM was created to help build community amongst students, provide learning and performance opportunities, and give students in the BA, BA Honours, BEd and MA programs exposure in the Drama Department. The beauty of ABBEDAM is that the productions are the result of collaboration between students in all different fields of theatre studies, resulting in a professional-quality show.

The shows are typically large-cast ensemble plays, directed by a BA, BEd or MA alumni and presented in November. ABBEDAM is an incredible opportunity to get involved and showcase your talent, even if you prefer to be behind the scenes! They are always looking for stagehands, set-up and tear-down crews, and recruits for next year’s creative team. Watch for audition notices outside the Drama Office, and in your e-mail inbox.

For more information or to get involved, check the U of A Drama webpage, or contact abbedam@gmail.com

One of the best ways to get in the loop in the Drama Department is to attend BA and BEd Student Orientation. This invaluable information session will take place in the Timms Centre Lobby, on Friday, September 8 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. At the Orientation, you will be provided with information about events throughout the Department, receive details about all of our student-run festivals, and get a chance to meet and interact with your professors, the support staff in the Timms and Fine Arts Building, and other students. This session is not only for incoming students, but also for senior students, as it is where you can submit your name to appear on one of the various student committees in the Drama Department!
Take EVERY opportunity to involve yourself in the department! I would not be where I am today without the integral extra-curricular experiences. I auditioned for everything I could, became a member on boards, and volunteered for everything. I had the fortune of directing ABBEDAM and running the Quick N Dirty Festival in 2010. Both represent the fruition of my learning at school and inspired me to create the Found Festival and work as a free-lance director in Edmonton. No opportunity is given to you, you need to go out there and make them. I challenge you to apply for everything, express your interest, create something new, break the rules, and innovate! – Andrew Ritchie, BA Major Alumnus

New Works

The New Works Festival is a student run one-act play festival presented in the Winter Semester. New Works is specifically designed to showcase the talents of up and coming playwrights at the U of A – their scripts will be produced and performed in front of a live audience! It also presents a wonderful opportunity for students to get involved, as each show requires a director, stage manager, dramaturge, designer, as well as lots of student actors, stage hands, lighting crews, etc. There are so many opportunities to participate!
New Works will present scripts chosen from a pool of submissions to be produced in the Second Playing Space in February. The amazing thing? All plays are entirely New Works that have never been performed.

A Blind Jury reads all submissions, discusses and debates them, and in the end, chose fantastic shows to present for your entertainment.

The call for directors and dramaturgs will go out in early October, shortly followed by a call for stage managers and designers. Auditions are generally held in November, so keep your eye on the callboard, and check your email regularly. There are also lots of opportunities for stagehands, lighting and sound operators, and props assistants. This festival is an incredible opportunity to get involved in the department and do some serious networking, so come out and join the madness!

**For more information please contact:**
newworksfestivalsubmissions@gmail.com

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**Off-the-Cuff Cabaret**

Shortly after the New Works Festival comes the Off-the-Cuff Cabaret! Previously known as the Quick ‘n Dirty Festival, then CAHOOTS, Off-the-Cuff was rebranded and re-launched in 2015. It is an inter-disciplinary fine arts series that showcases the talents of student artists from all over the U of A Campus. Acts of all types are encouraged, whether you sing, dance, juggle whilst simultaneously doing the Charleston, or have a painting you’d like to add to the visual arts exhibition. Off-the-Cuff is a low-key, easy way to get your foot in the door and show us what you’ve got!

**For more information, or to get involved with Off-the-Cuff:**
performcahoots@gmail.com
Volunteering

Want to get involved, but not quite ready to hop on the stage or sew a costume? All of the student-run festivals in the drama department rely on volunteers to help out, whether you’re acting, directing, or running front-of-house. Check your ualberta e-mail regularly for volunteer opportunities in the department, as well as performances, displays, and fundraising opportunities. Also, the Timms Centre looks for volunteers to act as ushers throughout the year for their Studio Theatre Productions. Timms Centre Volunteers will be able to watch the shows they usher for free.

For more information on ways to get involved in the Drama Department, go to the U of A Drama webpage, or join the Facebook group ‘BA Drama Kids’.

Get involved in Student Governance!

Program Committee

Each program has a committee consisting of faculty, contract instructors, grad students, instructors and students. The BA Committee has student representatives from all programs (BA Majors, BA Honors, BA/BEd Combined), and they meet three times per term, to provide student perspective on issues within the Department, and to pass along feedback to the rest of the student body. Sometimes, a student may be invited to contribute a majority opinion, and represent the student point of view from multiple angles. Essentially, they act as a liaison between the faculty and the students as a whole. Students are ‘elected’ to this committee at the BA Orientation in September. Usually, there are representatives and alternates, so any student who is interested can be elected to come to meetings.

Drama Council

Drama Council acts as the governing body for the whole department. Members include all faculty members, the chair and assistant chair, the production manager and student representatives from each program. Two students, one BA or BA Honors and one BEd or BA/BEd Combined are elected to sit on Drama Council, as well as two alternates.
Chair’s Student Advisory

One student from each program (BA Major, BA Honors, BEd, BA/BEd Combined) meet with the Department Chair usually once a term for an hour to weigh in on what is happening in the department. What is working? What needs work?

“Your job as an actor is to understand the size of what you say, to understand what’s beneath the word.”
- Stella Adler, The Art of Acting

A fantastic way to stay connected is through social Media. ABBEDAM, the New Works Festival, and Off-the-Cuff all have Facebook pages. There is also a page called BA Drama Kids, which is open to everyone.
Rehearsing at the U of A

So you've enrolled in your classes, you're participating in the department, and you have a monologue to work on... But where do you go to rehearse? This information will help you with a basic breakdown of the rehearsal facilities at the U of A and what they include, how to book them and how to access them, so you can choose the room that best suits your project!

**Booking a Space**

There are a lot of students in the Department of Drama who have a lot of projects to rehearse, so there is a sign-up system to ensure that rehearsal times can be distributed fairly. The sign-up sheets are located on the third floor, directly across from the Drama Office. Every **Monday morning** when the office opens, the sign-up sheets are posted for the upcoming week. At the beginning of the semester, students may sign up freely for the time and room they require. Each room has its own sign-up sheet, and they are divided into half hour time slots – simply write your **name** and the **number of the class or project** which you are rehearsing in your time slot, and the space is yours! However, during the Midterm season and finals, things start to get a little bit crazy, so you will have to draw for a spot in the **booking lottery**.

To take part in the **Booking Lottery**, go to the Drama Office during their open hours on Friday, where you will draw a bingo chip from a paper bag. The bingo chip will have a number indicating your position in the sign-up order for the following Monday morning. For example, if you draw a bingo chip with number three on it, it means you will be the **third person** to sign up on Monday morning. If nobody draws a lower number than you, you will be the first person to select your rooms. Fairly straightforward. But take this information with a grain of salt! Room bookings occur Monday mornings at **8:30 a.m. SHARP**, and if you are late, you will lose your place in the sign-up order, and have to join the back of the line. The punctual student gets the prime rehearsal space!

Each student may book a **maximum of two hours PER DAY**, with a total booking allotment of **TEN HOURS PER WEEK TOTAL**. As previously mentioned, there are a lot of students in the department who need to rehearse, and everybody deserves the chance to practice in their performance venue.

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Rehearsal is important, but don’t burn yourself out! It’s okay to take breaks and relax every so often.

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*Since the first day, I’ve been surrounded by people who are just as passionate as I am, with so many different experiences, different strengths and weaknesses, different looks and styles - united by this love of the dramatic arts. Through these people, I have grown so much as an artist that I can’t believe it’s only been two years. University is a time for self-exploration and self-discovery, and while I’ve been finding myself, a community found me.*

– Ashleigh Hicks, BA Honors
Rehearsal Spaces and Classrooms in FAB

**FAB 2-43:** Located on the second floor of FAB, near the pedway to the Timms, FAB 2-43 is a long room with lots of natural light provided by floor to ceiling windows on the West wall. The room includes storage cabinets, curtains that span three walls, and a full array of rehearsal furniture. This room is great for scene work, or ensemble pieces. After 6:00 p.m., an access enabled OneCard is required to enter.

**FAB 2-48:** On the second floor of FAB next to the Stage Management room, FAB 2-48 is a small, soundproofed space, ideal for meetings, monologue rehearsal as well as any voice work. The acoustics are great, and the room has a piano, tables and chairs. There is no rehearsal furniture. After 6:00 p.m., an access enabled OneCard is required to enter.

**FAB 3-125 and FAB 3-121:** These two sister-spaces are located on the third floor of FAB, near the stairs to the Corner Stage. They are both large, spacious rooms with a full set of rehearsal furniture and large storage cabinets. There are lighting tracks and control panels, often used for 383 finals and MA projects. These rooms do not require a OneCard to enter, but after 6:00 p.m., the door to the third floor department locks, so you will need an enabled OneCard to enter.
**Movement Studio:** Located at the end of the third floor hallway, next to FAB 3-121, the Movement Studio (FAB 3-117) is a large dance studio, reserved for BFA Actors and 331 Movement classes. It is primarily a dance studio, so there is no furniture, and you may NOT wear shoes in the room. There is a code required to open the door.

**Corner Stage:** Corner Stage is the main stage in the Fine Arts Building, which features a semi-thrust stage with raised seating. You can access the theatre from all three floors, though direct access to the seating is recommended through the second-floor entrance. During the day, the second-floor entrance remains unlocked, but after 6:00 p.m., an access enabled OneCard is required to enter. The first floor entrance **always** requires a OneCard to enter, and the third floor entrance is usually unlocked on the hallway side, but is often locked when trying to enter from the stairwell.

**Bleviss Laboratory Theatre:** This black box theatre, commonly referred to as the ‘BLT’, is located on the first floor of FAB, next to the entrance to Corner Stage. This space is **NOT** available to be used for rehearsals by BA students, as it is used primarily for MFA Directing projects, and there is almost always a large set being constructed in the area. Do watch for sign-up sheets though – the shows in this room are free to watch, and it's a lovely opportunity to see the finished products of some of your peers, and get a glimpse into the MFA Directing program at the U of A.

## Other Rehearsal Halls on Campus

**SPS:** Located across from the Fine arts Building, the Second Playing Space is the BA performance venue in the Timms Centre. It is used by various U of A festivals, as well as the Drama 483 and 457 classes., but the large, black box room can be booked by students for use as a rehearsal space when available. There is a full array of rehearsal furniture, however, please be mindful – use only the stock, rehearsal furniture. If there is an item that looks fancy, or you haven’t seen it before, it is probably being used by a production in the space, and you **should not touch it.** A swipe enabled OneCard is required to enter.

**KIVA:** Located on the upper floor of the North Education building, KIVA is a round, empty room with a circular pit in the center, which is occasionally used as a drama classroom. It has wonderful acoustics, and can be used as a rehearsal space. There is no furniture in the room.

**SAB 1-58:** This large classroom is located in the South Academic Building. Often used as a rehearsal space for shows in the Bleviss Laboratory theatre, it hosts a limited selection of rehearsal furniture. There is a code required for the door, which is posted on the sign-up sheet outside of the Drama Office.
Learn everything to teach everything; that was the beauty of the BA/BEd combined program for me. From acting and directing, to designing and producing, ask the program what you want from it, and it will deliver. The program gave me the opportunity to practice and hone the skills I would need to pursue a professional career in theatre, with the added security of the skills I would need to pursue a profession in education. My advice to incoming students: take advantage of all the extra-curricular activities, student groups and clubs offered through the department. Make your own experiences and celebrate every failure just as you would celebrate every success. Break a leg!

- Luay Eljamal, BA/BEd Combined Alumnus

Room Access and Encoding Your OneCard

There are various spaces within the Fine Arts Building and Timms Centre that require an encoded OneCard to access. After 6 p.m., you will need to have an encoded one card to access the third floor in FAB, Corner Stage, FAB 2-48 and FAB 2-43, and SPS always requires a swipe card.

An email will be sent out towards the beginning of the year, reminding Drama Students that they can have their OneCards encoded to ensure access within the Department of Drama. Posters will be hung, people will talk about it, and a room will be set up. Generally, OneCard encoding takes place over one day, so make sure you are paying attention so you don’t miss it!

At some times of the term, there never seems to be enough space, but you can look outside of FAB. There are small conference rooms in the Libraries, which can be booked for rehearsals, as well as some rooms in the upper floors of Education North. Get creative, but remember to mindful of your workspaces, and treat them with respect!

Above - Students having fun in a performance of “F***, Marry, Kill” in the 2014 New Works Festival – photo by Brooklyn Ritchie

Left - Priests, princes and brides – oh my! Students performing in “The Princess and the Sandman” in the 2014 New Works Festival – photo by Hayden Weir
Department 101

The BA Program at the University of Alberta strives to teach students how to operate as a professional in the theatre world, whether they are an actor, a director, dramaturge or stagehand. One of the key things you need to remember is that you must ALWAYS be respectful in a theatre environment. This isn’t nagging; it’s small details that people think they know, but sometimes forget. School is preparing you for your future, so make use of your time here to instill certain rules into your brain. Here are some things to think about:

General Etiquette

The following points may seem obvious, but it’s crazy how often people seem to forget small details!

- Always be on time to rehearsal, if not early
  - It’s hard to get out of bed in the morning, we know. But it is extremely disrespectful to be late, whether it is to a rehearsal, meeting, or a class. If you are a part of a professional production, and you are consistently late, they have the power and the resources to replace you, and word spreads very quickly. Don’t get a reputation as ‘that-person-who-wastes-everyone’s-time’.

- Communication is key
  - Sometimes, crazy-random-happenstance situations will arise, and there is nothing you can do about them. Life happens! If you ARE going to be late to a rehearsal, just LET SOMEONE KNOW. It’s very simple to do, and will keep everyone happy!

- Dress appropriately for your classes
  - You have the right to wear whatever you want. But you will soon realize that certain types of clothing will make it VERY hard for you to do certain things in drama classes.

- Treat others with respect
  - This means EVERYONE. As a theatre professional, you will have to work with a variety of people in many different scenarios, so treat everyone the way you want to be treated. This includes teachers, colleagues, directors and peers. Again, if you are in a production and you are being difficult to work with, they can, and will, replace you.

- Respect your environment
  - You will be working in a shared space – please try to keep the classrooms and rehearsal furniture in good condition! They are for everyone to use.

The 457 class of 2014 shows off their prop-making skills for their production of “Welcome to Thebes” – photo by Luay Elfamal
BA Fashion Guide

Many of the classes offered in the department are movement based, or are practical performance classes, so it is important to ensure that you are wearing clothing that you are comfortable in, and can move in. That being said, try to look presentable. We don’t want the Drama Department to be known as ‘that department where everyone wears pajamas’. Unless it’s for a performance, in which case, rock those jammies!

As a University student, you are absolutely entitled to wear whatever clothing you want to your classes, but remember, if you choose to wear clothing in which you cannot move or participate fully, you are only holding yourself back. Essentially, if you can’t do a standing triple-back-tuck in your cocktail dress, you probably shouldn’t wear it to Mike Kennard’s 331 Movement Class.

*If you can do a standing triple-back-tuck in a cocktail dress, you should consider joining Cirque du Soleil. And you get +4 awesome points.

Storage

Don’t want to wear lulus every second of every day? There are quite a few lockers available to rent through the Fine Arts Building. Go visit Helen Baggaley in the Drama Office during the Fall Semester, and ask for a locker. For twenty dollars, you will be given a locker number, and a lock combination, so you have a place to store all of your props and costumes and all the other weird things drama students walk around with. Helen will even write all the information on a piece of paper for you, so your combination doesn’t disappear in the monologue filled void of your memory. The best part is, ten dollars of the twenty dollar fee is a deposit, so at the end of the year, after you’ve emptied all your belongings from your locker and return your lock, you get that ten dollars back!

Drama Student Emergency Bursary Fund

What is it?

This fund is designed to assist Drama Students who are in severe financial need. Sometimes during the semester, a situation will arise where a student has absolutely no money for food or rent. If they have exhausted all other resources, they may make an appointment with program advisors, seeking ways to help pay their bills, and ensure that they can continue to pursue their education.

Student Services on campus have an emergency bursary program which can also serve this need, however, it is not the right fit for everyone; funding is not announced until late March, though typically, students are concerned in February about their funds for March and April.
IF YOU ARE A DRAMA STUDENT WITH SEVERE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, YOU MAY WISH TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THIS FUND. IF SO, READ ON:

Terms of Reference

1. Eligible applicants will be registered as full-time students in one of the following programs: BA (Drama Major), BA (Drama Honors), BA/BEd Combined (Drama), BFA (Design), BFA (Acting), BFA (Stage Management), BFA (Technical Theatre), PhD (Performance Studies), MA (Drama), MFA (Directing), MFA (Design), MFA (Theatre Practice), and MFA (Voice Pedagogy). They will be intending to complete a degree in Drama at the U of A and will usually have been full-time students through the academic year in which they apply for funding.

2. This fund aims to support students near the end of the academic year, in order for them to complete that year of education.

3. Students must show that they have sought all other available funds, including student loans and applications to the University and/or GSA emergency bursary programs.

4. Students must prepare a specific budget, and request a specific amount of money.

5. Assistance will range from $300-$600 as needed, and as endowment earnings allow. These amounts will be reviewed.

6. This endowment will be established and built up with funds from student activities and performances, which are designated as fundraising events. Funds may be enhanced over the years via other Departmental fundraising activities.

7. The names of applicants will be held in confidence.

8. The Chair will report on the activities of the fund to the Drama Council annually, citing the number of students served, bursary amounts, recipients' programs, and endowment income.

Application Procedure

1. Applications are made to the Chair, or designate, in person. Talk to the Chair’s assistant to make an appointment. Required written materials, which should be brought to the meeting, include a budget, a specific financial request and evidence that other avenues of funding have been pursued.

2. The deadline will be flexible; students will normally apply during Term 2.

If you are having financial problems, please, do not be afraid to ask for help. We want every student to have an enjoyable University experience, and get the education they deserve!
Libraries and Quiet Spaces

If you are looking for a hard copy of a play or text, there is a sizeable selection of plays and theatre resources located on the fifth floor of the Rutherford Library, which are available to students at any time. The University of Alberta Library Catalogue sources materials from other libraries in Alberta, so if your required book cannot be specifically found at the U of A libraries, there is a possibility it can be shipped in from another post-secondary institution in the province. Furthermore, there is a selection of plays available in a digital format in the U of A Library catalogue – check the website!

The Drama Department is very lucky to have a small, independent library on the third floor of FAB, across from the Movement Studio. The Sandra F. Guberman Reading Room holds a variety of plays, monologue compilations, and theatre resource materials. Recently, the Guberman underwent an extensive reorganization effort, and so the plays are organized and catalogued by region, and author. The Guberman operates on an honor system – students are free to enter during library hours (which are posted on the door), to sign out books, and are trusted to return their resources on time and in good condition. Please treat the items with respect, and use the resources available to you!

Often times, the Guberman is available to be used as a quiet study space. Please use it – it’s what it is there for! Food and drink are permitted in the library, provided you keep it tidy, and while it is a comfortable space, it is not meant as a hang-out spot, a rehearsal venue or a place to hide and watch movies. Students use it to study and read, so be respectful of your peers, and try to keep it quiet, calm and clean.

Students performing in “Eurydice” for a 483 final – photo by Luay Eljamal

When I first started university, everything seemed a little overwhelming, especially since I came from a different city. These feelings fell away soon after I started getting involved in student groups and courses. I met so many new friends and all the professors were incredibly supportive and genuinely want you to succeed. I think that in order to get the most out of this program you have to get as involved as you can, as quickly as you can. There are so many different festivals, groups and clubs where you can apply the skills that you are learning about and then feel as if you are a part of something.

- Chandra Moir, BA/BEd Combined Degree
External Resources and Training

Edmonton is an amazing city for both amateur and professional theatre, and there are plenty of places to get involved outside of the University. The following pages will provide some information about some of the most popular options. It’s a big world out there – take advantage of every opportunity you get!

Walterdale Theatre

“Walterdale Theatre Association is one of the longest running community theatres in Western Canada. All those who work on [their] shows are members of the Association, and with the exception of a part-time theatre Administrator, no one is paid.”

Created in 1958, the Walterdale playhouse is currently housed in what used to be Strathcona Fire Hall No. 1 on 83rd Avenue. The building was designated as a Provincial Registered Historic Resource in 1976. This piece of Edmonton’s history has become an invaluable resource to aspiring and amateur artists in the city.

Each year, the Walterdale theatre produces 5 full-length productions, as well as their annual “From Cradle to Stage” festival, which produces new works.

The Walterdale theatre is a volunteer-run theatre, which includes the actors. It is a great opportunity for students to gain experience in their field outside of school. The Walterdale is regularly on the lookout for technical operators, actors, and stagehands.

For more information, and to keep up with audition notices, visit

www.walterdaletheatre.com

Actors in “Proof”, from the 2013 Walterdale Season – Photo by Janine Waddell Hodder
GeriActors Theatre Ltd.

The GeriActors Theatre Ltd. is a not-for-profit company that focuses on seniors and intergenerational theatre throughout Edmonton and the surrounding area. The company has two main areas of activity: the acting company, GeriActors & Friends (G & F) and its Outreach Programs. In the acting company, the GeriActors are seniors from SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton) and the ‘Friends’ are students and alumni from the University of Alberta. The outreach programs include: FEST (the Festival of Edmonton Seniors and Theatre), intergenerational work with Jasper Place High School, Rapid Geris (in collaboration with Rapid Fire Theatre), Performance Storytelling and Dance Workshops, and Under One Sky (a multicultural storytelling project).

The GeriActors & Friends

This past season, the GeriActors & Friends had:

- 11 GeriActors and 9 ‘Friends’
- 12 performances at conferences, seniors’ residences and other community events (they even Skyped a performance to the Live Age Festival in the UK!)

The GeriActors & Friends produce original plays based on stories from their lives and issues affecting the senior community. They develop new material by playing games, telling stories, improvising, and taking elegant coffee breaks with free flowing discussion. As they rehearse and perform, they continuously rewrite their scripts. Humour and music are central to their work; laughter makes even the most difficult subject accessible.

The GeriActors & Friends meet every Thursday from 1:15 – 3:45 pm at SAGE (15 Sir Winston Churchill Square).

Recent Production

- **Nail Polish**
  A grandmother remembers her childhood passion for unobtainable nail polish.

- **Tjalling Zonderland**
  A young man, who despite a strong dislike for school, becomes a great teacher and poet.

- **Am I Invisible?**
  A montage of vignettes and music about the perception and avoidance of seniors’ invisibility.

- **Our Lear**
  Adapted from Shakespeare's King Lear, the play asks: How do we maintain our agency as we age? How do we care for our loved ones when they are older?

- **Prodigal**
  A retelling of a story about leaving home, despair, and forgiveness.
Drama 427/507: Intergenerational Theatre

- Drama 427/507 is a combined undergraduate and graduate course. Students engage with the GeriActors in theatre workshops, devised play development, and performance. Students and seniors lead improvisations and develop content based on stories, images and issues.

- Students come from a variety of programs, including Drama, Secondary and Elementary Education, Human Ecology, Pharmacy and Public Health. Graduate Assistantships are available. For some students, the course is included in their Certificate in Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

- On graduation, students follow a variety of career and academic paths, including participation in community-based theatre, teaching, overseas volunteering, and graduate programs in Drama Therapy (Concordia) and Applied Theatre (Victoria, Manchester).

For more information on the GeríActors Theatre Ltd. visit:

www.geriactors.ualberta.ca

Interested in getting involved?
Contact us at geriactors.friends@gmail.com
Robbins Academy

The Robbins Academy is based out of the Citadel Theatre, and offers a variety of classes for actors at every level. They aim to help professionals continue to develop their skills, offer opportunities for teens and students to perform, and introduce children to the magical world of theatre. The following are some of their offered programs.

The Foote Theatre School

The oldest and largest theatre school in Edmonton, Foote Theatre School provides year round classes for actors and dramatists of all ages and experience levels. They offer a variety of courses, focusing on everything from acting for the camera to playwriting to musical theatre. No matter what class you choose, it’s an excellent training opportunity.

Citadel Theatre Young Companies

The Citadel Theatre Young Companies are specialized programs for aspiring artists between the ages of 16-21. They train throughout the school year, with their work culminating in a performance for the acting and musical theatre companies, and a staged reading for the young playwrights. The programs available are:

- Acting
- Musical Theatre
- Playwriting
- Theatre Production

For more information on any of the above programs, go to www.citadeltheatre.com/robbins-academy/

Theatre Alberta

Theatre Alberta is a registered Canadian charity and non-profit society and an excellent resource for students, emerging artists and professionals alike. Theatre Alberta offers an extensive library, which includes an online catalogue, playscripts, reference materials and more. Other features of the website include workshop advertisements, local theatre news, and classifieds listings – an excellent way to find current and upcoming auditions, jobs, and volunteer positions! Visit www.theatrealberta.com to discover the wonder of Theatre Alberta!

Try to be specific about what you want out of the BA program. The unfortunate truth is that, after you graduate, you’re going to be thrown into the world of professional theatre. Odds are, the folks who are looking to hire you are looking for someone who’s really good at one thing, as opposed to someone who’s okay at five things. –Brooklyn Ritchie, BA Drama Alum 2015