



Liberal Arts prepares students for theatre arts

The faculty of the Theatre Arts Department firmly believes that the strongest and best preparation for a career in theatre is an excellent liberal arts education. Understanding other disciplines and other ways of thinking helps to depict human society, past and present, in the plays brought into performance. The very interdisciplinary nature of theatre requires a broad base of knowledge and experience.

Balancing act

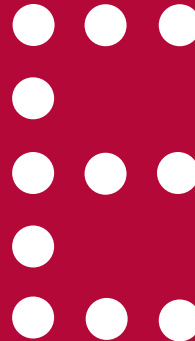
The Theatre Arts Program provides a comprehensive background in all major aspects of theatre. Some of the goals for the Theatre Arts Department include:

- Offer a balanced mix of courses in theatre appreciation, fundamentals of the art and the business of theatre
- Provide opportunities for all students to participate in productions
- Prepare theatre majors well for both work in professional theatre and for graduate study



Earlham Facts

- Founded in 1847 by the Society of Friends, Earlham is rooted in the ideals of Quakerism.
- 1,200 undergraduate students representing 44 states and 71 countries
- Male 44%, Female 56%
- 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- More than 70 percent of every graduating class participates in an off-campus study program.
- More than 75 percent of Earlham graduates pursue an advanced degree.



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Earlham welcomes all who come to seek for truth in a diverse community that accords respect to every individual. Each is asked to contribute to the understanding of all.

Theatre Arts

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Facilities and resources

The Theatre Arts Department's primary venue is the 325-seat Wilkinson Theatre. This facility is supported by well-equipped scenic and costume shops, a control booth with a computer lighting console, new sound mixing console and digital sound production capabilities, and a complete inventory of lighting instruments and computer controlled accessories. Below the theatre are the dressing rooms, a make-up room and rehearsal space.

Faculty with professional backgrounds

Earlham Theatre Arts faculty have experience in professional theatre as directors, actors and producers. This depth of knowledge helps students see where they are and envision where they are going, crafting their career at Earlham to meld with their interests and goals.

Specializing for the generalist

The liberal arts approach offered in Theatre is for the specialist as well as the generalist. Classes are environments for discovery and discussion in a supportive atmosphere. Students who take full advantage of the opportunities for interaction and participation are well equipped to enter graduate school or begin the apprenticeship process leading to work in the professional theatre.

The Department major requires courses in acting, stagecraft, theatre production and theatre history. Students may also minor in Theatre Arts. After introductory courses, most students choose an area of emphasis such as acting, management, history, dance or design.

For more information about Earlham College's Theatre Arts Department, visit www.earlham.edu/~theatre.

“ The small size of the Theatre Arts Department provides amazing opportunity. The attention I've received while working on various projects would not be possible in a larger theatre program. Also, the theatre productions involve a variety of different students. Plays aren't all choked up with the same theatre majors. We have students of philosophy, chemistry and English participating in the shows. Each student brings his or her unique perspective to the pieces we do.”

— Mollie Wegerson '09, Chicago, Illinois
Theatre Arts major, History minor



Opportunities on and off campus

On-campus students participate in performances including mainstage productions, senior projects, dance concerts, scenes in foreign languages and directing projects. The student-run Earlham Theatre Company also provides opportunities for leadership and participation in student-initiated plays. Students choose to participate in any variety of ways.

In addition, students often choose to participate in off-campus study to enrich their education. Popular with theatre majors is the New York Arts Program, where students participate in internships with professional theatre companies while living and studying in New York City for a semester. The London Program is another favored choice; there students regularly attend performances as part of their course of study. Summer internships are also available. Faculty who work professionally assist students in finding placements for these opportunities.

Earlham Theatre Company

The Earlham Theatre Company is a student-run arm of the Department that offers students opportunities for leadership in theatre. The 24-hour Play Project is one such student-initiated activity, in which students write, rehearse and perform a play within a 24-hour period. These experiences provide less-risky ways for students to explore their interests and talents.



Theatre Arts graduates after Earlham

Recent graduates have gone in two general directions: graduate studies and pre-professional training. Earlham alumni attend some of the finest graduate programs in the country such as Yale and New York universities. Others use the creative organizational, communication and interpersonal skills developed from the theatre major in occupations not related to theatre directly, from teaching to sports broadcasting to business management.

“ My Earlham education has supported my career and goals in ways that I could not have foreseen. The structure of the Theatre program allowed me access to all areas of the theatre including acting, directing and producing. Earlham's strong value system provided me with a framework to practice my work and develop as a person.

“ I was a freelance professional in the theater world when I began teaching part-time at the Yale School of Drama in 2002. I now combine my professional work with teaching full-time. The teaching skills and mentorship of the Earlham faculty and my Earlham education are even more valuable to me as a professor.”

— Lisa Porter '91
Freelance Stage Manager, Associate Professor
University of California, San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance

“Because we have such close contact with students at Earlham, we engage our students at their level of experience. We then tailor the nature of their theatre arts education to help them improve in their areas of interest and guide them to their career goals.”

— Mickey White, M.F.A.
Professor of Theatre Arts

