

PURSUE

YOUR PASSION FOR THE ARTS
AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE THEATRE & DANCE



PURSUE YOUR PASSION

Pursue *all* of your passions.

At Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance, we invite you to pursue your passionate commitment to the arts, while at the same time exploring your **full range of creative and academic interests.**

Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance students get **world-class studio** training in the performing arts *and* a **first-rate liberal arts education.** Interested in dance *and* neuroscience? You're not just allowed but encouraged to pursue both.

Acting *and* philosophy? Great choice! Scenic design and business? Sounds like you've got a plan! Theatre, music and dance? Triple threat in the making. Biology and dance science ... playwriting and accounting ... education and choreography ... Check, check and check. We've seen all of these combinations and many more!

Our approach to the performing arts is **engaging, rigorous and flexible.** We combine exciting creative experiences with professional standards — in the classroom, in the studio and on the stage. Our students are **challenged as artists and thinkers**, encouraged to take risks and **nurtured to succeed.**

Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*, dir. Sharrell D. Lockett.
Photo by Ken Ek

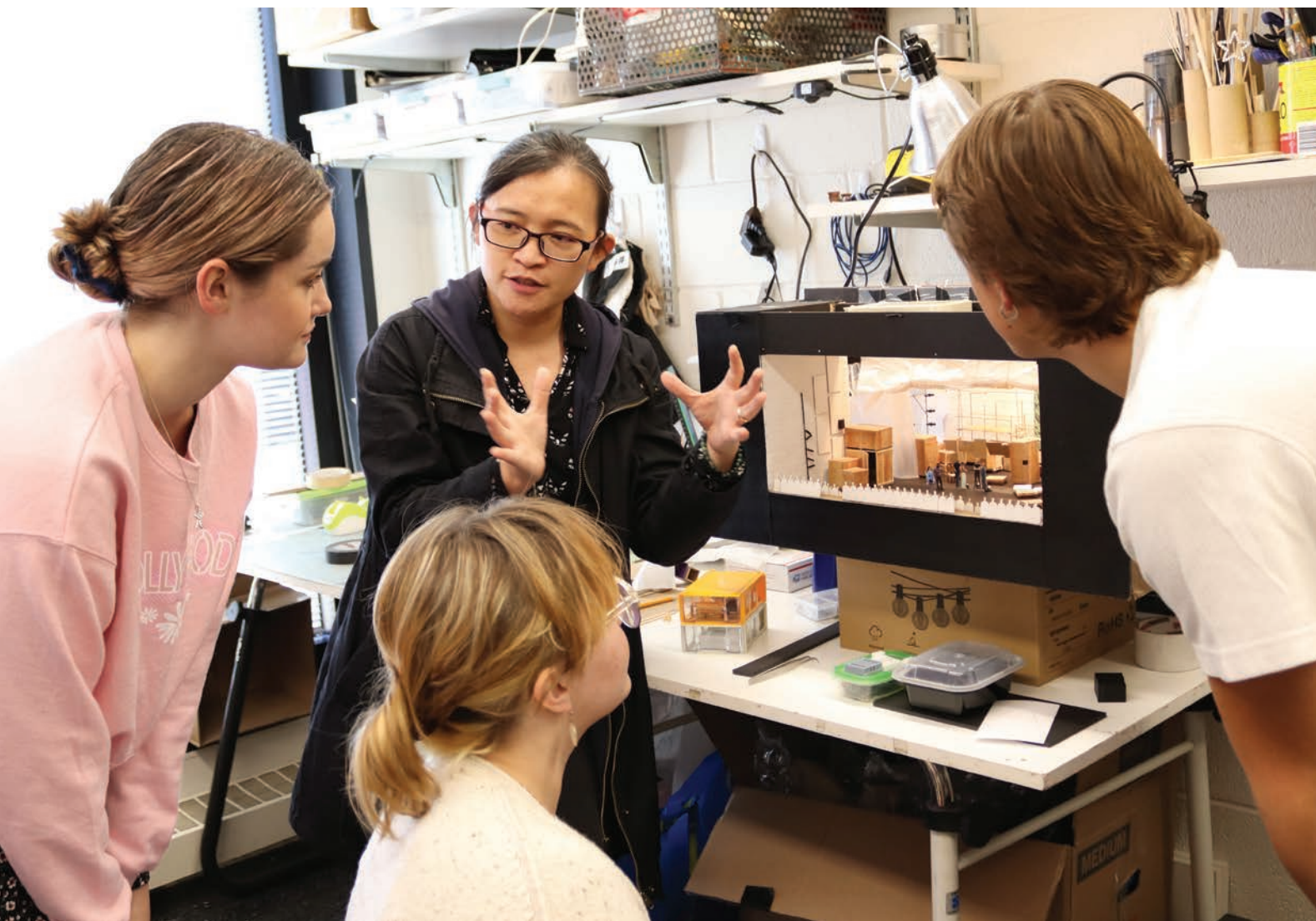


the **ACADEMIC** program

Students in both Theatre & Dance are encouraged to individualize their coursework to fulfill *all* of their **personal, creative and intellectual goals**. Most of our students pursue studies in multiple disciplines within the performing arts, and many also pursue study in other fields entirely, choosing among a **wide range of excellent programs** in business, communications, education and the arts and sciences — including highly regarded pre-law and pre-med programs.

Theatre and dance courses are designed to provide students with a thorough background in the history, theory and literature of performance — *and* frequent opportunities to **put that theory into practice**. Class sizes are limited, and **the work is intense, collaborative and demanding**.

You-Shin Chen, assistant professor of scenic design. Photo by Scott Snyder



Kander & Ebb's *Chicago*, dir. Charles Richter. Photo by Ken Ek.

"Untended Touch," chor. Danielle Barrett '22 (*Reset: New Dances*). Photo by Marco Calderon.

PERFORMANCE and **PRODUCTION** opportunities

Theatre & Dance students have numerous opportunities each year to perform for an audience and to work side-by-side with faculty and guest artists on performance projects. The department's critically acclaimed Performance Series offers a variety of **vibrant, eclectic experiences**.

Theatre productions range from cutting-edge black box dramas to Broadway-style musicals, dance productions from experimental site-specific pieces to major works by noted choreographers. All are presented in our **state-of-the-art performance facilities**, the Baker Center for the Arts and the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance. In addition to performance, each season also offers frequent, mentored opportunities for student directors, designers, playwrights, choreographers and stage managers.

Beyond the department's Performance Series, students at Muhlenberg have created an **extensive and supportive performing arts community** that offers student-directed studio productions and staged readings, improv ensembles, comedy shows, circus performances, a cappella groups, dance ensembles and concerts and much more. Also take complete artistic ownership of 20 to 40 studio productions and three to five informal dance concerts each year.



Cameron Silliman '18

THEATRE AND SPANISH DOUBLE-MAJOR
MUSICIAN AND TV AND STAGE ACTOR



“College is a time for exploration, and Muhlenberg is all about encouraging you to do that. I was looking into conservatory BFA programs, and I would only have been able to study theatre and probably wouldn’t even have been able to go abroad. At Muhlenberg I had the opportunity to study theatre *and* Spanish *and* go abroad — it gave me everything I wanted.”

Guest Artist-in-Residence Jeffrey Page directs Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Photo by Maddi Whiting.

WORLD-CLASS opportunities

Faculty & Visiting Artists-in-Residence

Our full-time and visiting faculty are all **working professionals with extensive experience** both in the classroom and on the stage. They offer a world of **diverse professional experiences**, and students broaden their own journeys by working closely with faculty and guest artists. Other graduates of the department have careers in such diverse fields as medicine, law, publishing, business, and teaching.

Recent **internationally renowned Artists-in-Residence** have included the Urban Bush Women; spoken-word artist Ursula Rucker; choreographers Earl Mosley, Bill Evans and Charlotte Boye-Christensen; playwrights Brighde Mullins and Mac Wellman; Emmy-nominated makeup artist Joe Dulude II; and acclaimed Broadway composer Charles Strouse.

Off-Campus & International Study Programs

Theatre & Dance students have several **excellent study-abroad and off-campus programs** available to them, including theatre programs at Theatre Academy London and Larry Singer Studios in New York City, and a first-rate dance and physical theatre program at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Muhlenberg offers a wide range of other study-abroad opportunities through its Global Education Program, all of which are available to Theatre & Dance majors.

More than 50% of Theatre & Dance students spend at least a semester studying abroad or in New York, and with planning and guidance from faculty advisers, students should have no trouble completing their academic program in four years, even with multiple fields of study.

POWERFUL outcomes

Muhlenberg performing arts majors are prepared to study at the graduate level, pursue careers as professional artists, and contribute **creative leadership** in any number of other career fields. Our blend of rigorous academic work and world-class studio training has proven to be **excellent preparation for work** in today’s theatre and dance worlds and beyond.

Our alumni are thriving as actors, dancers, directors, designers, choreographers, stage managers, technicians, educators and arts administrators — on Broadway, in film and TV and in major regional theatre and dance companies around the world. While many pursue the arts professionally, other graduates have pursued **successful careers in diverse fields**, including medicine, neuroscience, law, publishing, business and education.

Many of our alumni go on to pursue graduate studies, both in the performing arts and in other fields ranging from medicine to law to cognitive science. In recent years, Theatre & Dance students have attended graduate programs including:

- The American Conservatory Theatre
- Brown University/Trinity Rep
- Columbia University
- The David Geffen School of Drama at Yale
- Drexel University Neurosciences Institute
- The Juilliard School
- The Manhattan School of Music
- NYU Tisch School of the Arts
- Rutgers University
- Stanford University
- Temple University

Sunday in the Park with George, by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, dir. James Peck. Photo by Ken Ek.



THEATRE



Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi*, dir. Francine Roussel. Photo by Ken Ek.

the **THEATRE** curriculum

The Theatre curriculum is designed to allow our students **greater flexibility and breadth** as they select the courses that will best prepare them to pursue their goals. You can focus your work on one or more of the following areas of study; students who prefer to explore a **multi-focus, multifaceted curriculum** are encouraged to do so. Our objective is to train **versatile artmakers** to thrive in a performance industry that demands leadership, entrepreneurial spirit and a diverse skillset.

Stoph Scheer '07



THEATRE MAJOR
PUPPETEER FOR THE JIM HENSON COMPANY,
THE MUPPETS & BANKSY, GRANT RECIPIENT
OF THE JIM HENSON FOUNDATION

“All of my accomplishments and developments as an artist can be traced back to my studies at Muhlenberg. The training I received in the Department of Theatre & Dance was grounded enough to keep me focused but diverse enough to give me the special skills that have helped me compete in the performing arts and find my own voice as a creative artist.”



Acting

Acting students explore and work within a **full range of techniques, genres, periods and styles** — both on stage and on-camera. Muhlenberg's outstanding liberal arts curriculum complements their studio training. The acting faculty are working professionals with a **deep understanding** of the art and industry of performance.

Directing

The well-developed directing curriculum includes coursework that ranges broadly **from the technical to the philosophical**, providing students with the expertise to handle all facets of the intricate directing process. Students work closely with faculty and have **numerous opportunities to create work** in the studio and onstage.

Playwriting

Student playwrights hone their craft under the instruction of **accomplished playwriting faculty** and can develop their work in collaboration with actors and directors at every stage of the process, from workshops and table reads up through fully staged productions.

Beth Henley's *Am I Blue*, dir. Abigail Martz '19
(*New Voices | New Visions* Festival). Photo by Ken Ek.

Performance Studies

Performance Studies courses engage students in the **creative analysis of theatre** and other forms of performance. Students research and write about both the performing arts and other cultural performances such as sporting events, worship services and political rallies.

Musical Theatre

Students with a serious interest in musical theatre performance can receive **comprehensive training** at Muhlenberg. The department offers outstanding training in both acting and dance, and the Department of Music offers **excellent vocal training** and a complete range of music theory and history courses. Specific musical theatre coursework is available, and the production program offers a variety of opportunities to **put training into practice**.

Stage Management, Design & Technical Theatre

Students interested in the technical aspects of theatre can choose from a full slate of design and production courses. More information is included on the Design and Tech curriculum page.



"Gambit of Humanity," chor. Randall Anthony Smith (*Master Choreographers*). Photo by Sarah Beard Buckley.

the **DANCE** curriculum

Muhlenberg dancers enjoy the best of both worlds: **the artistic discipline and technical training** of an intense studio program and the **intellectual rigor** of a first-rate liberal arts college. Students may select one or more of these concentrations of study, and many complement their dance studies with a **second major or minor** in another field; popular choices include biology, education, business and theatre. Muhlenberg also offers a **Dance minor**.

Alison Bashford '20



DANCE & NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR
NEUROSCIENCE PH.D. STUDENT AT
DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

"I think what I appreciate most about Muhlenberg is their support of being interdisciplinary. I loved being part of the dance community and the classes I was taking. I got to take ballet between bio and chemistry. I never felt pressured to spend all my time doing one or the other. I always felt extremely empowered by both departments."



Performance

Dance Performance students receive **intensive, daily studio training** in a wide range of dance techniques, as well as a solid historical and theoretical background in dance. Students who wish to pursue a career in dance will receive **comprehensive preparation** from both analytical study and embodied technical training in dance performance.

Technique courses are offered **through advanced levels** in ballet, modern, jazz and tap, as well as in partnering, aerial, pointe, hip-hop and dance on camera.

Choreography

Choreography students focus on specific performance skills in a range of dance techniques as well as **engaging in in-depth study of the process** of creative expression through choreography.

Available courses include three levels of dance composition, screen dance and a full range of dance technique classes. Students also learn the stagecraft of lighting and costume design and have **numerous opportunities to stage works** for both informal and full-scale departmental concerts.

"Embers," chor. Karen Dearborn (*In Motion*).
Photo by Marco Calderon.

Dance Science

The Dance Science curriculum includes advanced coursework in **anatomy, kinesiology and somatic practices** and research opportunities. Students also take courses in the College's excellent biology, psychology, neuroscience and physics departments.

Many Dance Science students seeking a **well-rounded dance education** will pursue both performance and dance science coursework, often leading to careers in dance medicine, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Dance Education

The Dance Education curriculum **prepares students to teach dance** in the K-12 classroom, private studio or community dance programs. Students who wish to teach in public school can complete both a dance major and Muhlenberg's highly regarded Teaching Certification Program in just four years.

Coursework includes a **hands-on practicum semester**, pedagogy, kinesiology and choreography. Students also have the opportunity to **teach professionally** in Muhlenberg's Community Dance Center for young dancers, ages 4 through teenagers.

DESIGN & TECH



Street Scene, by Kurt Weill, Elmer Rice & Langston Hughes, dir. Charles Richter, scenic design Curtis Dretsch, costume design Lara de Bruijn, lighting design Gertjan Houben. Photo by Ken Ek.

the **DESIGN & TECH** curriculum

Muhlenberg's design and technology program offers students the opportunity to work and learn closely with faculty, staff and guest artists — working theatre and dance professionals with extensive experience regionally and nationally. Students benefit from a hands-on experience that integrates coursework with an **extensive and well-supported laboratory/production season**. These opportunities are available from the moment you arrive at Muhlenberg. Design & Tech students **build a diverse portfolio and a skillset** that will help them hit the ground running. Our alumni have gone on to design, stage manage and work professionally throughout the world.

Andrew Carey '17

THEATRE MAJOR
(DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS)
CREATIVE DESIGNER



“My main career goal has always been to design and create themed experiences — like museums and amusement park attractions. My education at Muhlenberg helped me form a strong foundation of tools that set me up for success as I began my professional career.”



Miss You Like Hell, by Erin McKeown & Quiara Alegria Hudes, dir. Jamie McKittrick, scenic design You-Shin Chen, costume design Celeste Samson '22, lighting design K. A. Rudolph. Photo by Marco Calderon.

Scenic & Prop Design

Muhlenberg's shows are renowned for their production design — and students are involved in every step of the process. Scenic design students take classes in both design and construction techniques, and have access to a spacious, well-equipped scene shop and **state-of-the-art design and construction tools**, including a CNC router and current computer-aided design software.

Students build and design for all three of our major performance spaces. Small Stagecraft and Scenic Design classes and individual mentoring create a **supportive and nurturing environment** in which the focus is on learning.

Stage Management

The stage management curriculum gives students a thorough background in a broad range of production areas in both theatre and dance, which provides them with a **complete understanding of the process** of mounting complex performance works. The production program offers numerous opportunities for students to stage manage at every level, with **mentorship and support** throughout the process.

Costume & Makeup Design

The curriculum approaches costume design both technically and intellectually, giving students the opportunity to develop proficiency in both the history and aesthetics of costume and makeup design and the techniques necessary to **realize their vision**.

The costume program has the advantage of a large, well-equipped shop, a full-time faculty member in costume design, and three experienced professional staff members. Students have **numerous opportunities to design and construct** theatre and dance costumes for the stage, and season selection emphasizes a **diversity of theatrical genres and time periods**.

Lighting & Sound Design

Students in lighting and sound have the opportunity to use **state-of-the-art stage lighting and sound systems** in both their course work and practical design projects.

Each of our three venues encourages and supports the widest possible range of creative solutions for dance and theatre. From the intimate, flexible black-box Studio Theatre to the elegant Baker Theatre, with its traditional proscenium, to the Empie Theatre with its excellent acoustics and open ground plan, the **possibilities are limitless**.

start your **JOURNEY**

If you picture yourself studying the performing arts at a nationally recognized Theatre & Dance program, pursuing world-class studio training, integrated with a rigorous liberal arts education, then we invite you to get to know Muhlenberg. We'll help you pursue your passions — and maybe find a few you never knew you had.

An audition or portfolio review is not required to study theatre or dance at Muhlenberg — but it can be a great way for us to get to know you and for you to get to know the program. A strong audition or interview can enhance your admissions profile, and an audition or portfolio review is **required** for students who wish to be considered for a **talent scholarship**.

Come tour the facility, sit in on a studio class, meet the students and faculty, and take a look around. See what we're all about.

For questions regarding the admissions and financial aid process, contact admissions@muhlenberg.edu. For information about tours, interviews and auditions, visit the website — or get in touch by email or phone.

We'd love to get to know you!

Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Wig Out*, dir. Troy Dwyer, costume design Andy Jean, makeup design Joe Dulude II. Photo by Ken Ek.



Photo by Ken Ek



Photo by Matthew Wright



Photo by Ken Ek



Photo by Matthew Wright



Photo by Ken Ek



Photo by Ken Ek

Brandon Girouard '08

THEATRE AND DANCE DOUBLE-MAJOR
DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, & DANCE EDUCATOR
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, QUEST INTENSIVE



“The Muhlenberg Department of Theatre & Dance teaches you to collaborate, articulate ideas, and to expand beyond your comfort zones. Today, I have become a true artist because of the education I earned from Muhlenberg. I encourage all my students to take the first bus to Allentown and see for themselves one of the best programs in the country.”



Photo by Marco Calderon



Photo by Marco Calderon

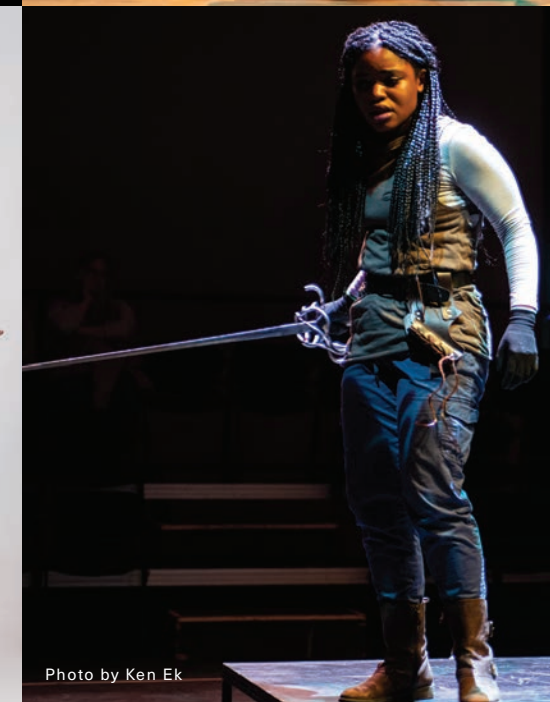


Photo by Ken Ek



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