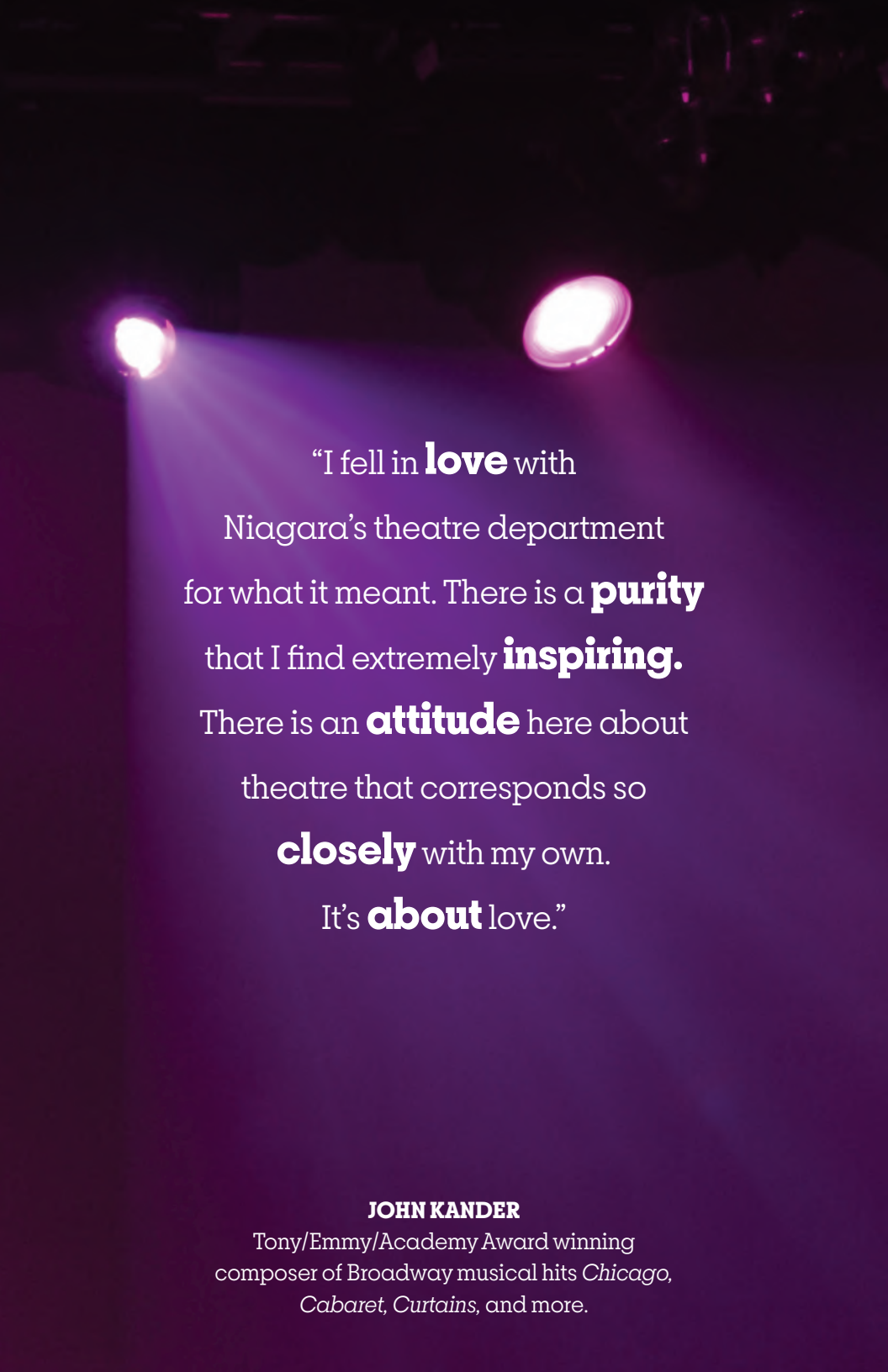


BFA THEATRE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND FINE ARTS



NIAGARA
UNIVERSITY

A dark stage with two spotlights illuminating the text. The spotlights are positioned at the top left and top right, casting a soft glow on the text below. The background is a deep, dark purple or black, with some faint, out-of-focus lights visible in the upper right corner.

“I fell in **love** with
Niagara’s theatre department
for what it meant. There is a **purity**
that I find extremely **inspiring**.
There is an **attitude** here about
theatre that corresponds so
closely with my own.
It’s **about** love.”

JOHN KANDER

Tony/Emmy/Academy Award winning
composer of Broadway musical hits *Chicago*,
Cabaret, *Curtains*, and more.



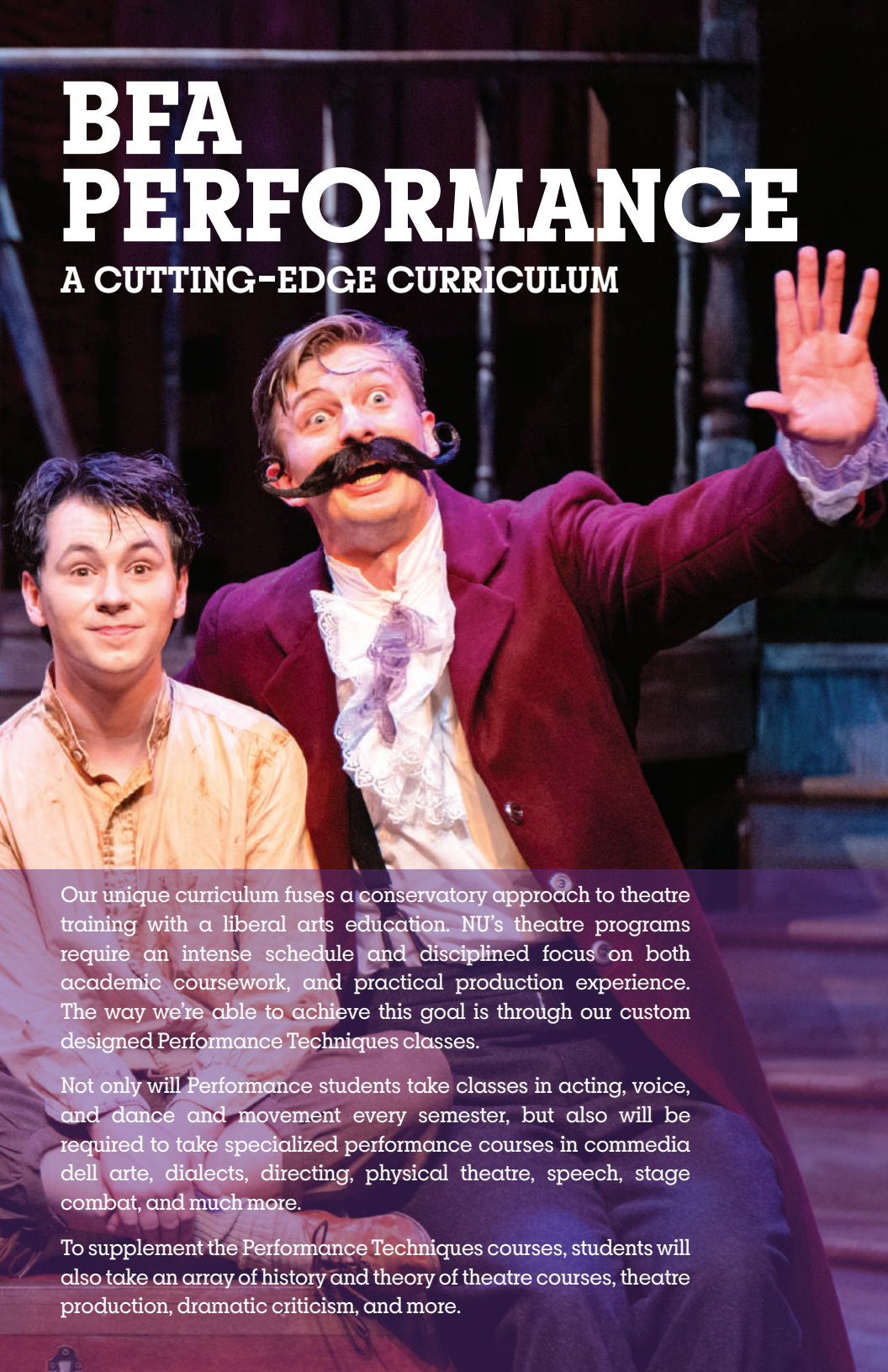
A POWERFUL TRAINING EXPERIENCE

As one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, Niagara University is well-known for preparing students for careers that take them anywhere from Broadway to Hollywood. One-on-one mentorship with theatre faculty gives increased *confidence* – both on-stage and offstage – throughout every step of the experiential learning process.

Since 1964, NU Theatre has proudly educated and entertained audiences through a variety of annual productions, giving students an artistic playground for growth and development and a *heightened sense of purpose* in their artistic pursuits. Moreover, our multi-faceted alumni network, consisting of artists with credits from Broadway, international tours, TV, and radio, can give a *clarity of direction* for the exciting future that awaits you.

BEA PERFORMANCE

A CUTTING-EDGE CURRICULUM



Our unique curriculum fuses a conservatory approach to theatre training with a liberal arts education. NU's theatre programs require an intense schedule and disciplined focus on both academic coursework, and practical production experience. The way we're able to achieve this goal is through our custom designed Performance Techniques classes.

Not only will Performance students take classes in acting, voice, and dance and movement every semester, but also will be required to take specialized performance courses in commedia dell arte, dialects, directing, physical theatre, speech, stage combat, and much more.

To supplement the Performance Techniques courses, students will also take an array of history and theory of theatre courses, theatre production, dramatic criticism, and more.



PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES

To get the maximum amount of skills training without compromising academics, students in the BFA Performance program take “Performance Techniques” each semester. This course is composed of three or four full-semester three-credit courses.

Freshman – Fall

THR 101 – Performance Techniques I

- Acting Foundations I
- Dance and Movement
- Speech I
- Music Theory

Sophomore – Fall

THR 201 – Performance Techniques III

- Acting Styles I (Camera, Chekov)
- Jazz Dance I or II
- Vocal Performance II
- Physical Theatre II

Junior – Fall

THR 301 – Performance Techniques V

- Acting Shakespeare II
- Tap Dance I or II
- Vocal Performance III
- Stage Combat II

Senior – Fall

THR 401 – Performance Techniques VII

- Acting Synthesis and the Profession I
- Ballet V or VI
- Physical Theatre IV

Freshman – Spring

THR 102 – Performance Techniques II

- Acting Foundations II
- Ballet I or II
- Vocal Performance I
- Physical Theatre I

Sophomore – Spring

THR 202 – Performance Techniques IV

- Acting Shakespeare I
- Ballet III or IV
- Speech II
- Stage Combat I

Junior – Spring

THR 302 – Performance Techniques VI

- Acting Styles II (Beckett, Brecht)
- Jazz Dance III or IV
- Physical Theatre III

Senior – Spring

THR 402 – Performance Techniques VIII

- Acting Synthesis and the Profession II
- Broadway Dance I or II
- Vocal Performance IV

BFA DESIGN *and* PRODUCTION

Under the guidance of working professionals, Design and Production students focus not only on the studio/classroom coursework, but also receive practical, individualized training in all aspects of theatre design: costumes, lighting, scenery, and sound.

Design and Production students are also required to complete two practicums each semester, where theory is put into practice in key positions in Niagara University Theatre productions.

Theatre faculty strive to raise the bar in theatre excellence, and bring inspiring and new opportunities to students to meet the evolving demands of the industry, including assisting faculty designers and practical learning through independent study design experiences.





DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Core Requirements

- Intro to Theatre Design
- Stagecraft
- Costume Design
- Lighting Design
- Scenic Design
- Advanced Design Studio
- Theatre Practicum I - VIII *

Electives

- Advanced Makeup
- Costume Construction
- History of Décor and Fashion
- History of Décor and Fashion II
- Pattern Drafting
- Principles of Makeup
- Stage Management
- Scenic Painting
- Theatre Sound

* A vital component to the design and production curriculum are the required practicums to be completed each semester. These practicums provide opportunities to develop practical experience through build, run and design assignments, working in crew positions either in a shop, on a pre-production team, or on a production crew, for the multiple departmental productions.



BFA THEATRE SPECIALIZATION

A man and two women are performing a theatrical exercise. The man is suspended in the air, holding onto a metal frame that is suspended from above. The two women are on the ground, also holding onto the frame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Students exploring career paths other than performance or design and production may choose a theatre specialization. Specialization students spend their first two years in the BFA Performance program and transfer into the Specialization program to begin their focused coursework. Each student in the Theatre Specialization program creates a two-semester Senior Seminar project, tailored to their interests.

In the **Directing** concentration, for example, students work with a mentor to select specialized electives in performance skills and styles, as well as in different areas of theatre design, building towards assistant directing and directing full productions.

In addition to Directing, the Theatre Specialization program also offers concentrations in **Playwriting**, including a focus on writing studies courses, and **Dramaturgy**, offering a more thorough foundation in literature and history.

M.S.Ed. *in* THEATRE EDUCATION

Theatre Education prepares students to develop the next generation of actors by expanding knowledge in the principles of teaching theatre and the practices of applied drama. Continuing into this 4+1 program at Niagara offers you:

- **A Fast Track:** Students currently in the BFA Theatre program can take four graduate classes as an undergrad, allowing them to attain both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years.
- **Affordability:** Graduate classes taken as an undergrad will be charged at undergraduate prices.
- **Flexibility:** Our program is 100% online and can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.

The pathway of this program also leads to initial certification in New York state for teaching theater in grades Pre-K through 12.

MINORS

In addition to the BFA Theatre programs, the Department of Theatre and Fine Arts offers a variety of minors. Through the College of Arts and Sciences, a minor is awarded to a student who has successfully completed a sequence of five courses in the appropriate discipline. This sequence of courses is determined by the student in consultation with a departmental advisor.



Current minors:

- Art History
- Dance
- Design and Production
- Fine Arts
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Studies

PRODUCTIONS

A CUTTING-EDGE CURRICULUM



An integral part of students' training is the theatre season produced by **Niagara University Theatre**, the producing entity of the Department of Theatre & Fine Arts, which has been entertaining and educating audiences since 1964.

Each season typically includes **eight productions**, ranging from classical to contemporary, musical to physical theatre, traditional to new works. The season also includes our annual Short Play Festival and NU Player's Presents production, which is all student led.

These numerous productions provide students with more opportunities to apply knowledge, skills, and techniques explored in classwork.



As one of the oldest professional theatre programs in the region, Niagara University Theatre has strived to achieve three objectives in its mission:

- To produce or present engaging theatrical experiences of a professional caliber for audiences of all ages.
- To promote cultural development and artistic inspiration within the communities of the Buffalo/Niagara region.
- To provide an artistic playground for the growth and development of student artists in the theatre training programs.



STUDY ABROAD

LONDON OR ITALY

LONDON – Niagara University theatre studies students may choose to spend six weeks studying theatre in London, England, and earn 12 academic credits toward their degree in the process. Courses in current British Theatre, Elizabethan/Jacobean Drama, Acting and Performance, and Production Internships are offered through a prominent London-based university.

Outside the classroom, students visit historical sites, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Cathedral, Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace, and complete a directed research project based on their experiences.

Attending professional theatre is a significant part of the program and students see over a dozen productions in London's West End, Shakespeare's New Globe Theatre, Olivier's National Theatre and Stratford-Upon-Avon.

ITALY – Students who take the FAA/THR 344 – History of Décor and Fashion course have the opportunity to spend about two weeks in Rome and Florence, Italy. While studying in Rome, students will walk on 2,000-year-old paths to tour the Colosseum, be awed by the size and beauty of St. Peter's Basilica, and enjoy culinary delights while waiting to throw coins in the Trevi Fountain, to name a few experiences. In Florence, students will see the extraordinary art at the Uffizi, the Piazza del Duomo, and so much more.

WORK WITH US!

NURT | SUMMER THEATRE

N.U.R.T. – A rotating 45-minute repertoire of children’s stories is performed for free during the months of July and August:

- On stage at the Leary Theatre in Clet Hall. Dates and times in the Leary Theatre to be announced.
- Artpark Family Saturdays in July. Check the website for more details.



Summer Mainstage – Students have the opportunity to carry on NU Theatre’s mission of presenting engaging and illuminating theater to entertain family audiences. Stimulating as well as captivating, these shows offer our students the chance to utilize skills learned in the classroom, while performing shows that we wouldn’t typically produce in an academic year. Be sure to stay tuned for a new offering every summer!



AUDITIONS *and* INTERVIEWS



For prospective and transfer students seeking entry into any of our BFA programs, applicants are required to attend one of our dates, typically held each Spring, to complete either an audition or an interview for their respective programs.

Performance Applicant Requirements

1. **Monologue:** One-minute monologue of your choice from a play, prepared and memorized. Not to exceed two minutes.
2. **Vocal:** 60-90 seconds of a song, preferably from a musical, memorized and performed with musical accompaniment. Pianist will be provided.
3. **Movement:** This audition will be utilized to assess dance and movement placement.

Design and Production Applicant Requirements

Each applicant for the design and production program will meet with the design faculty for 30 minutes to present a prepared portfolio. Additionally, applicants should be prepared to discuss their theatre experience, career aspirations, and expectations at NU. The portfolio should include a maximum of 15 samples that primarily reflect the applicant's technical theatre production experience.

Theatre Specialization Applicant Requirements

Applicants for the theatre specialization programs must complete an interview with faculty members from the department of theatre and fine arts. Due to the varying demands of each emphasis (directing, dramaturgy, and playwriting), applicants will have the option to audition and/or present a portfolio of his/her work.

For more information, please visit us at niagara.edu/theatre.

NU THEATRE SCHOLARSHIPS

Prospective Students

Those prospective and transfer students auditioning or interviewing for entry into any of our BFA programs may also be considered for a Niagara University Theatre Scholarship. There are a number of these scholarships available, including the John J. LaFalce Theatre Studies Scholarship and the Mary M. Williams Scholarships. Each of these scholarships are valued at \$5,000 each and are renewable each year, provided the recipient maintains acceptable academic progress and full-time status. Additionally, these scholarships are awarded on top of the Merit Award offered by the Office of Admissions.

Current Students

Matriculated students enrolled in the BFA programs are eligible to apply for various small scholarships annually. These include the Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship, Powerhouse Training Program Scholarship, Douglas E. Towey Memorial Scholarship, Tara Laurie and Reese Family Memorial Study Abroad Scholarships, and more. Please see the Theatre Student Handbook for eligibility requirements, application procedures and policies.

HOW TO APPLY

If your dream is to work in theatre, then Niagara University is a perfect place to begin your journey. Take center stage and connect with our Admissions team to apply, ask questions, or visit the campus for an open house, event, and daily tours.

To get started, visit niagara.edu/apply, and give us a call at 716.286.8700 or email admissions@niagara.edu.

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

For more information about
our BFA Theatre programs,
please visit us at
niagara.edu/theatre
or call 716.286.8480.



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