DIRECTING (MFA)

Professor Tom Bullard, Program Head
Direct Line/Voicemail: (718) 951-5000 x 2765
Email: tbullard@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Program Description, Philosophy, Goals, and Mission

The MFA Concentration in Directing is dedicated to training stage directors to perform with distinction and leadership in professional live theater. The focus of the concentration is on building the skills, knowledge and confidence to direct and produce live theater. As a correlate of this focus, students are also prepared to teach skills and subjects related to their training in academic institutions of higher learning.

Each student’s journey through the program is designed to value and promote their unique aspirations, goals, needs, and talents to satisfy the 60-credit curriculum. To this end, we offer a variety of required, elective, and independent study courses that encourage collaboration with each of the Department of Theater’s graduate and undergraduate programs: the MFA and BFA in Design and Production; the MFA and BFA in Acting; and the BA in Theater. The training offers a balance of rigorous academic preparation in the history, theory, and literature of theater along with intensive practical experience through on-campus production, classroom, and workshop activity.

As well, there are numerous opportunities for pursuing independent study using the resources of New York City, attending classes offered at other City University of New York schools, and doing internships at a wide variety of producing organizations in the city.

Each year of the two-year course of study concludes with a capstone project — directing a one-act play in a festival format at the end of the first spring semester and directing a full-length thesis production during either the fall or spring semester of the second year.

Stage directors in today’s world are faced with innumerable opportunities and circumstances in which to practice their craft and artistry. They may collaborate with theater makers of prodigiously divergent and diverse backgrounds, cultures, identities, aspirations, values, goals, and trainings. Our graduate directing program is committed to learning, embracing, and supporting the trainings of each of our acting, design, and production programs. It is also committed to supporting each directing student’s evolution and cultivating each one’s unique gifts by engaging with the bounty of resources and opportunities offered by New York City, and now, during this unprecedented time of remote learning and practice, by engaging with those now possible on an even wider scale.

And the directing program and its leadership is committed to working with its past, current, and future students, the Department of Theater faculty, and Brooklyn College to create racial equality and justice in our program and department, eliminate systemic racism in our department structure and ourselves, and build towards open, honest, respectful, generous dialogue to these ends.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present evidence of high promise and previous achievement in directing. After contacting the Theater Office for the college bulletin (available at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu) and program description (available at http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater), please submit an online application and mail the application fee, a current resume, a personal statement, official undergraduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation directly to the Office of Admissions. The application deadline is February 1 for fall matriculation (January 1 for international students). No students are accepted for the spring semester. In addition to the application materials, a production book based on a recently completed project should be sent directly to:

Professor Thomas Bullard  
Department of Theater  
Brooklyn College of The City University of New York  
2900 Bedford Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889  
Phone: (718) 951-5000 x 2765  
Email: tbullard@brooklyn.cuny.edu

The production book should include examples of pre-production preparation (research, analysis, organization of rehearsal process, and design concept), descriptive examples of your rehearsal process, a summary self-evaluation, and photos, video or a DVD of the performance. Professor Bullard views the production book as an opportunity for you to give him a comprehensive understanding of where you are in your directing process. There is no prescribed form, but he would like you to give evidence of your pre-production preparation/process as well as your rehearsal and production process as a director (incorporating research, aural/visual/plastic design or vision, script analysis, and rehearsal techniques).

Once applications have been reviewed, candidates may be invited for an on-campus interview. Please contact Professor Bullard by email or phone with any questions about the directing program or the application process.

For the online application please visit: http://applytograd.brooklyn.cuny.edu.  
Applications for the fall semester must be submitted by February 1st of the prior spring semester.

REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE COURSES

FIRST SEMESTER

- Directing I (7511X)
- Performing Arts Admin (7611X)
- Design Concepts (7430X)
- Stage Management Practicum (7721X) (assigned in either the first or second semester)
- Elective
SECOND SEMESTER
- Directing II (7512X)
- History of Theater from 1642 (7213X)
- Development of Dramatic Structure II (7122X)
- History of Theatrical Theory and Criticism II (7222X)
- Practicum (7722X) Professional Director Interviews

THIRD SEMESTER
- Directing III – Shakespeare (7513X)
- History of Theater to 1642 (7212X)
- History of Theory and Criticism I (7513X)
- Development of Dramatic Structure I (7121X)
- Advanced Seminar in Directing/Thesis Production (7515X)
- Practicum (7723X) Independent Study/Professional Internship

FOURTH SEMESTER
- Artistic Managerial Decision Making (7616X)
- Directing IV (7514X)
- Written Thesis (7742X)
- Practicum (7724X) Independent Study/Professional Internship

NOTE: BOLD TYPE INDICATES A REQUIRED COURSE

Please note: This outline serves as a guide and template. Alterations, adjustments, substitutions, can be made with the program director’s support and approval, and/or the support and approval of appropriate faculty.

Please note: Directing students are required to take either Development of Dramatic Structure I or Development of Dramatic Structure II, not both.

PARTICIPATING FACULTY

Thomas Bullard          Head, Graduate Directing Program
Mary B. Robinson       MFA Directing Professor and Professional Stage Director
Judylee Vivier         Head, Graduate Acting Program
Patrick Sabongui       Head, BFA Program
Kip Marsh              Head, Graduate Design Programs
Teresa Snider-Stein    Head, Costume Design
Justin Townsend        Head, Lighting Design
Laura Tesman           Head, BA Program
Helen Richardson       Professor of History
OUR GRADUATES

Many of our graduates over the past decade are the artistic directors/producers of theaters in New York and/or directing professional productions in New York and regional theaters.

- Arthur Adair, Associate Director, LaMaMa, NYC
- Sarah Benson, Producing Artistic Director, Soho Rep, NYC
- Dev Bondarin, Artistic Director, Astoria Performing Arts Center, NYC
- Jens Boutrup, Executive Artistic Director, Momentum Theatre Company, Ondense, Denmark
- Nick Cotz, Producer/Director, All For One Theater, NYC
- Meghan Finn, Artistic Director, The Tank, NYC
- Adrienne Kapstein, Associate Professor, Head of BA Acting and BA Directing International Performance Ensemble Program, Pace School of Performing Arts
- David Kennedy, Associate Artistic Director, Westport Country Playhouse, Drama League Directing Fellow
- Woodie King Jr., Producing Director, New Federal Theater, NYC
- Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj, Artistic Director, Rebel Theater, NYC; has directed productions at Actors Theater of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, New Federal Theater; adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon
- Abigail Mareteck, Drama League Directing Fellow
- Cyndy Marion, Artistic Director, Whitehorse Theater, NYC
- Sean McGlynn, City Manager, Santa Rosa, CA
- Eric Nightengale, Producing Acting Director (1994–2008), 78th Street Theatre Lab, NYC
- Eric Ort, Artistic Associate at TheaterWorks (Hartford, CT)
- Andrea Paciotto, Associate Director, LaMaMa, NYC
- Eric Parness, Assistant Professor of Acting and Directing at Westfield State University; Artistic Director, Resonance Ensemble, NYC
- Eileen Phelan, former Artistic Director, Sightlines Theater Company; former Producer of the annual Village Voice OBIE Awards
- Cara Reichel, Producing Artistic Director, Prospect Theater, NYC
- D. Wambui Richardson, Drama League Directing Fellow
- Miriam Weiner, Literary Associate, Vineyard Theater, NYC; Drama League Directing Fellow
- Welker White, MFA Acting Faculty, Brooklyn College; Stage, Film and Television actress (*The Irishman; Good Fellas; Dead Poet's Society*)

Please visit our web page at:

http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/programs_grad_mfa_directing.html