Responsive to the diversity of developments fundamental to theater in the age of globalization, the MA program in Theater History and Criticism at Brooklyn College encourages a comprehensive understanding of the living theater as a cultural and sociological phenomenon under constant transformation. The MA program in Theater History and Criticism provides a rigorous and multi-faceted approach to academic training and investigation. It seeks to foster theater scholars, theoreticians, and critics who are actively engaged in understanding and articulating the theater of the past as a foundation for the theater of the present and the future. Brooklyn College is close to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a venue for some of the best of international theater in New York. It's also just a few subway stops from Manhattan—with its varied theater offerings and wide range of resources for theater research. Students can make use of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, which has one of the most extensive collections on theater in the world. Brooklyn College offers a rich environment for those who wish to study theater and performance in depth.

The MA program in Theater History and Criticism provides a variety of courses and seminars in the history of western theater and the study of world theater, as well as classes focusing on theories of theater and applied criticism. As part of a vibrant theater-making department, the MA program at Brooklyn College looks to integrate scholarly research with practical application: collaborating with the various disciplines within the Theater Department, including Directing, Design, Acting, and Performing Arts Management, in order to develop a dynamic approach to discourse on the art of theater. The program is also an important step toward a Ph.D. in theater or performance studies. Students can take courses in various departments at Brooklyn College, as well as other CUNY colleges, with the permission of the class professors. Several of these graduate courses are recognized by the Graduate Center, CUNY, with its esteemed doctoral program in theater.

Before matriculation into the program, the applicant must offer proof of extensive knowledge of the field of theater, which includes a required 18 credits in undergraduate theater with at least one course in dramatic literature and one in theater production. In addition, the applicant should have completed a one-year (or two courses) study in theater history, or the equivalent. (Note: the program has made exceptions to these requirements when applicants who may not have pursued a traditional undergraduate theater education could demonstrate they had sufficient knowledge of performance history and criticism to complete graduate-level coursework in the field.)

Applications for the fall semester are due February 1 (January 1 for international students) and must include a copy of each of two research papers on theater, or a related subject, that demonstrates strong writing and research skills. For an application please visit http://applytograd.brooklyn.cuny.edu. To facilitate your application please notify the Program Head, Professor Margaret Araneo, at maraneo@brooklyn.cuny.edu, of your intent and send a copy of your application to her at: 

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