



## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Theatre [Alumni] Program Overview and Course Descriptions

The Alumni Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Theatre is designed to immerse the student in a curriculum that provides a strong foundation for a professional career in a multitude of dance performance industries. Training is demanding and rigorous. An emphasis on classical technique will be complimented by focused studies in a variety of dance styles and disciplines. Performance Immersion courses will expand training beyond dance to include advanced acting, voice, improvisation, and other essential performance skills. Critical Studies courses provide academic coursework designed specifically for the performing artist, where every class is immediately relevant to the life of a working dancer, actor, and/or singer. Additional courses focus on career preparation, industry networking, and audition techniques. Courses in entrepreneurship will allow students to create performance opportunities, build business plans and explore the role of the producer. The overall program is designed to ultimately enable the graduate to successfully compete within the ever-changing demands of the Entertainment Industry.

### YEAR THREE

#### Fifth Semester

English Composition for the Actor  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Body Wellness for the Dancer  
*Critical Studies: Science/Tech 3 credits*

Film/TV: Acting for the Camera III  
*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Dance (Choose Two: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and/or Daily Barre)  
*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Performance Immersion Electives  
*Performance Immersion 1.5 credits*

Choose one:

Stage Combat I: Unarmed

Stage Combat II: Single Sword

Stage Combat III: Broadsword, Rapier & Dagger

Improv I: Foundations

Improv II: Techniques

Improv III: Advanced Techniques

Dance Workshop

*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

#### Sixth Semester

Creative Writing  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Creative Exploration  
*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Cultural Diversity in the Arts

Surrealism in the Arts

History of Cinema 1

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Masterpieces of Drama

Great Playwrights & Great

Composers

World Theatre

Dance (Choose Two: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and/or Daily Barre)

*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Dance: Elective Style

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Dance Workshop

*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

### YEAR FOUR

#### Seventh Semester

Entrepreneurship in the Arts  
*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Playwriting/Screenwriting  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Advanced Musical Theatre: Musical

Theatre Combinations

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Dance Workshop

*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

#### Eighth Semester

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Creative Exploration

*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Slam Poetry Workshop

Gender in the Performing Arts

History of Cinema 2

Advanced Dance: Dance Audition Techniques

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Industry & Networking: Career Preparation

*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Advanced Dance: Final Project – Dance Film

*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Advanced Dance: Final Project – Dance Production

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Theatre [Alumni]

#### Fifth Semester

##### English Composition for the Actor

**(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

Balancing the requirements of standard written English with subject matter that is relevant to the performing artist, this course will help students achieve confidence and competency in the areas of effective writing: a focused and unified thesis, compelling content and supporting details, a variety of rhetorical and organizational modes, grammar and mechanics, and accepted formats and documentation.

##### Body Wellness for the Dancer

**(Critical Studies: Science/Tech) 3 credits**

This course will include a study of subjects critical to the life of a dancer, including basic anatomy, nutrition, kinesiology, and injury prevention and treatment.

##### Film/TV: Acting for the Camera III

**(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

Devoted to furthering students understanding of truthful acting within the medium of the camera, this course will include acting as it relates to commercials, CGI, and/or advanced scene work. Expanding on the vocabulary used in previous semester's work, this course will utilize more complex camera shots, equipment, character work, and all elements that best prepare the student for careers involving acting for the camera.

##### Dance (Choose Two: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and/or Daily Barre)

**(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

##### Dance: Ballet

*Beginner* – An introduction to the fundamentals of ballet technique and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on learning the elementary positions, characteristics, and movements of this highly stylized art form. Students acquire and/or develop an awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Intermediate* – A continuation of ballet technique training with an emphasis upon increasing technical proficiency, performance skills and aesthetics. Students acquire and/or develop an increased awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Advanced* – Advanced ballet training with a greater emphasis upon perfecting technique, performance skills, ballet vocabulary and varied styles. Students acquire and/or develop an advanced awareness and control of effective posture and body alignment.

**Dance: Tap****(Performance Immersion) 1 credit**

*Beginner* – This course is a beginning exploration into rhythms and steps basic to the art form of tap dancing. Training includes musicality and performance skills as well as techniques. Students acquire an awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Intermediate* – This course will continue tap technique training with increased attention placed on musical phrasing and the use of space. More emphasis will be placed on increasing tap vocabulary and performing duet and/or solo work. Students acquire and/or develop an increased awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Advanced* – Advanced tap training with a greater emphasis upon perfecting tap technique and performance skills. An emphasis will be placed on relating to music, space, and style. Students acquire and/or develop an advanced awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

**Dance: Jazz**

*Beginner* – An introduction to the fundamental mechanics of movement in the jazz style. Emphasis will be placed on the development of jazz techniques, performing skills, and spatial relationships. Students acquire and/or develop an awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Intermediate* – A continuation of jazz technique training with increased attention placed on phrasing and the use of space. Students acquire and/or develop an increased awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Advanced* – Advanced jazz training with a greater emphasis upon perfecting jazz technique and style. Performance skills and audition skills are highlighted. Students acquire and/or develop an advanced awareness and control of effective posture and body alignment.

**Dance: Modern**

*Beginner* – An introduction to the fundamental mechanics of movement in the modern style. Emphasis will be placed on the development of modern dance techniques, performing skills, and spatial relationships. Students acquire and/or develop an awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Intermediate* – A continuation of modern technique training with increased attention placed on phrasing and the use of space. Students acquire and/or develop an increased awareness and control of posture and body alignment.

*Advanced* – Advanced modern dance training with a greater emphasis upon perfecting modern technique and style. Performance skills and audition skills are highlighted. Students acquire and/or develop an advanced awareness and control of effective posture and body alignment.

**Dance: Daily Barre**

Daily (one hour class meeting to start every class day) warm-up for dancers includes: floor barre, core strengthening, ballet barre, center barre.

**Performance Immersion Elective****(Performance Immersion) 1.5 credits**

Choose one:

**Stage Combat I: Unarmed** – Students will be introduced to the concentrated study of basic and advanced unarmed stage combat techniques. The focus of study will be to develop the actor's awareness of body, movement, partnering as well as the safe, and effective techniques to create a process from which to execute a choreographed unarmed fight scene.

**Stage Combat II: Single Sword** – Students will be introduced to the art of single swordplay through the mechanics and techniques of footwork, choreography, as well as the history and development of the Western European Rapier. Through the continued study of these basic principles of stage combat, students will train to develop the concentration and focus required to execute a dramatic moment of illusionary violence with the sword.

**Stage Combat III: Broadsword, Rapier & Dagger** – Advanced stage combat techniques are developed through the study and use of Broadsword and the Rapier & Dagger. The focus here will be to apply all previously studied principles of stage combat and execute choreographed fights incorporating scenes from dramatic literature with a Public Performance.

**Improv I: Foundations** – This course is designed to enhance and strengthen the student's range, imagination, and physical choices. The student is taught to interact spontaneously with fellow actors and to establish the foundations for a heightened sense of physical freedom.

**Improv II: Techniques** – Course work includes further development of kinesthetic and sensory awareness with advanced exercises in concentration and point of focus. The student will be instructed in making strong and intelligent choices with in the context of an ensemble and group. Problem solving, moment-to-moment interaction, and spontaneity are emphasized.

**Improv III: Advanced Techniques** – This course employs non-verbal scenes, sensory improvisation exercises, repetition exercises, verbal improvisation techniques, and scene work with improvisation foundations. The student is taught to play honestly within a visceral environment and to interact spontaneously with the needs and responses of fellow actors.

**Dance Workshop****(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

Designed for students of intermediate or advanced dance skill levels. Work may include study of choreographic principles and processes, rehearsal techniques and protocols, mentor meetings, research projects, exercises and notation. A final performance may occur as a culmination to the course.

**Sixth Semester****Creative Writing****(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

This course offers to the performing artist a dynamic creative writing workshop. Study will include reading and analysis of some of the most inspired creative works. Focus will be given to comparing the fundamental structure of various writing forms, such as the short story, one-act play and screenplay.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative

Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Cultural Diversity in the Arts** – A course exploring issues of race, gender, ethnic and cultural identities as expressed within diverse theatrical and cinematic forms.

**Surrealism in the Arts** – This course examines works of art, literature, theatre, and film from the late 1800's through today that deal directly with dreams and hallucinations. This course also examines surrealist and dream texts from a cultural and historical perspective, presenting the various cultural differences and viewpoints associated with surrealist and dream texts. This course examines these cultural and historical underpinnings in order to grasp the nature of dreams from a larger global and historical perspective.

**History of Cinema 1** – This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 2) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

All Theatre Roots courses are humanities courses geared towards providing an artistic, intellectual, historical, sociopolitical, and overall cultural context for the major playwrights, traditions, and thematic areas of theatre and the performing arts. These interdisciplinary classes will combine theatre history, literature, philosophy, art history, and even scientific theories to help illuminate significant dramatists and works. These courses are divided into three categories, at least two of which will be offered each semester:

**Masterpieces of Drama:** Introductory surveys of a significant period or style of drama.

**Great Playwrights & Great Composers:** In-depth focus upon important playwrights and composers.

**World Theatre:** Studies of global theatrical and performing arts traditions.

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Dance (Choose Two: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and/or Daily Barre)****(Performance Immersion) 2 credits****Dance: Elective Style****(Performance Immersion) 1 credit**

Choices will vary each semester. Choices may include: Broadway, Contemporary, Ballroom, Partnering, Hip-Hop, Court/Period, Salsa, African, Improvisation, etc.

**Dance Workshop****(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

See fifth semester course description.

**Seventh Semester****Entrepreneurship in the Arts****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

The purpose of this course is to help each student achieve an individualized understanding of "entrepreneurship" and the creation of new artistic ventures and to allow each student an opportunity to envision a career in (or related to) the arts based upon their own creative and professional interests.

**Playwriting/Screenwriting****(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

This course is designed to explore the fundamentals of Playwriting and Screenwriting while allowing students to develop their skills in creating compelling characters, dialogue and plot. This course will survey the basic elements of dramatic structure, and the parallels and differences between the two art forms, playwriting and screenwriting.

**Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

See sixth semester course description.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Musical Theatre Combinations****(Performance Immersion) 3 credits**

Students work with a director and choreographer to create characters for an effective musical theatre performance within a professional ensemble. Skill areas include exploring vocal choices through acting, singing harmony, movement and choreography, and building a character. Repertoire is chosen from shows that are frequently produced allowing the student to prepare for future ensemble auditions.

**Dance Workshop****(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

See fifth semester course description.

**Eighth Semester****Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

See sixth semester course description.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Slam Poetry Workshop**

Over the course of this writing workshop, students will learn how to create spoken word poems and monologues intended for public performance. Poets studied will include Daniel Beaty, Saul Williams, Maggie Estep, Mayda del Valle, Gina Loring, and Suheir Hammad. The workshop will culminate in students performing their own poems at AMDA's Late-Night Poetry Slam.

**Gender in the Performing Arts**

The seminar explores the distinctions and complex relationships among the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality in relation to the performing arts. It will take a cultural studies approach informed by feminist, gender, and queer theories.

**History of Cinema 2**

This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 1) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Advanced Dance: Dance Audition Techniques**  
**(Performance Immersion) 1 credit**

Strategies for successfully learning and performing dance combinations as they would apply in the environment of a professional dance audition. A variety of styles will be used for the combinations.

**Industry & Networking; Career Preparation****(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

This course provides valuable information regarding agents, casting directors and the practical business aspects of a career in the performing arts. Interviews, auditions, pictures/resumes, mailings, and similar professional responsibilities are included. 50% of credit hours assigned to this course will be acquired through out-of-class room assignments which are designed to introduce the students to industry professionals and establish contacts.

**Advanced Dance: Final Project – Dance Film**  
**(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

This course is designed to provide each student the opportunity to participate in one or more processes that will culminate in the creation of a filmed dance performance. A large portion of the assigned credit hours will require students to work independently (individually or in groups).

**Advanced Dance: Final Project – Dance Production**  
**(Performance Immersion) 3 credits**

This course is designed to provide each student the opportunity to participate in one or more processes that will culminate in the creation of a dance production. A large portion of the assigned credit hours will require students to work independently (individually or in groups).