

radical

Imagining the future of performance from roots to reinvention

The University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts welcomes applications to its MFA Drama Program for studies beginning in September 2018.

The School

The University of Calgary's **School of Creative and Performing Arts** brings together the three artistic disciplines that share a central fascination with the nature of *performance*: Dance, Drama and Music. Our students receive focused discipline-specific preparation in addition to unique opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction and experience through highly flexible yet carefully designed program options. We prioritize the immeasurable benefits of professional experience and international exchange, and by placing a premium on the intersection of practice and theory, we combine a deep respect for the pragmatic aspects of careers in the arts with a rigorous fascination for the theoretical, scientific, cultural, sociological, and ideological dimensions of our fields.

Our Faculty

Applicants to the MFA in Drama can specialize in any of the following areas: **Design/Technical**, **Directing**, **Playwriting**, and **Theatre Studies**. In each of these areas students receive expert instruction and supervision from some of Canada's most recognized scholars, artists, and artist/scholars: **Bruce Barton** (Dramaturgy; Devising: Practice-Based Research; Interdisciplinary Performance); **Christine Brubaker** (Directing; Acting; Voice); **Val Campbell** (Performance; Authentic Movement; Somatic Practice); **Penny Farfan** (Dramatic Literature; Theatre History; Modernist Studies; Feminist Theatre); **Patrick Finn** (Performance & Technology, Textual & Critical Studies, Directing & Dramaturgy, Research Methods, Medieval & Renaissance, Modern & Contemporary); **Pil Hansen** (Dramaturgy; Cognitive Performance Studies; Research Methods; Arts Management); **Clem Martini** (Playwriting; Theatre for Young Audiences); and **April Viczko** (Lighting, Costume, Set, and Projections Design).

Our faculty members lead national associations in their areas of expertise, have been celebrated with national and international awards for both scholarship and artistic practice, have received prestigious industry honours, have toured performances and creative projects around the globe to critical acclaim, and are positioned on the forefront of new areas of scholarly inquiry and discovery.

Financial Support

All successful candidates receive generous internal financial support and our program has an excellent track record with external funding and paid Internships applications. Further, all our students benefit from teaching opportunities and funded assistantships in both teaching and research capacities.

Our Facilities & Production Opportunities

The Drama Division of the School of Creative and Performing Arts boasts **three thoroughly equipped theatre spaces**, ranging from 150 through 500 seats and providing a wide range of performance relationships, in addition to a fourth studio theatre dedicated to faculty and **graduate student research**. Students have full access to profession standard costume, properties, and scene shops as well as a state-of-the-art **Integrated Media Lab** for experimentation and production purposes. Five full-time staff members provide both production support and expert training across the full spectrum of technical roles. These spaces



Image: Window by Jason P. Rothery & Eric Rose for the Taking Flight Festival, 2016. Photos by Citrus Photography



and staff support a busy and diverse season of programming, including multiple mainstage productions as well as a student-driven festival of experimental work. Students can also participate in formal off-site initiatives such as Wagonstage (currently in collaboration with the Calgary Zoo).

Recent guest artists include **Haysam Kadri**, **Daniel MacIvor**, **Peter Balkwill** (of the **Old Trout Puppet Theatre**), **Eric Rose** and **Ghost River Theatre**, **Eric Moschopedis**, and **Denise Clarke** of One Yellow Rabbit. The SCPA is also an active collaborator on multiple training, production and research initiatives with professional Theatre and Performance organizations such as the **High Performance Rodeo**, **Alberta Theatre Projects**, **Vertigo Theatre**, **Quest Theatre** and **Theatre Junction Grand**, as well as the **Banff Centre**. This broad range of professional engagement results in strong industry contacts and experiences prior to graduation.

Our Students

Students in the MFA Drama program regularly come to Calgary from all over the world; current students hail from Brazil, Nigeria, UK, and USA, as well as Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. In addition to rigorous training in their selected area of specialization, all MFA students acquire **advanced practice based, experimental, and analytical research skills** and learn to produce new practical and scholarly knowledge. Current MFA research projects do, for example, ask questions about patterns of audience agency in interactive performances, about how to foster non-human centric curiosity through science-theatre, about the effect of everyday technology on the performer's body, about modes of collaboration, resource sharing, and embodied learning in design processes, about performative approaches to activism and race, about the effect of applying drama in rehabilitation contexts, and about concepts of landscape deriving from artistic responses to a specific location. In all cases, students enjoy high levels of individual agency within a carefully structured framework as they determine their individual program designs.

The University of Calgary

The University of Calgary was ranked **Canada's #1 "Young University"** as it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016. Boasting an unprecedented level of new faculty hiring in 2015/16, UCalgary is one of the nation's most progressive and ambitious post-secondary institutions. Specifically, with the creation of the SCPA in 2013, UCalgary has made a strong investment in the creative and performing arts, identifying the School as one of its key priorities for future growth. The City of Calgary—just an hour away from the majestic Rocky Mountains—was named the **Cultural Capital of Canada** in 2012 and ranked by *The Economist* magazine as #5 among "the best places to live in the world" three years in a row. Calgary has a rich and varied cultural landscape, with strong representation and ever-increasing opportunities for graduates from across the performing arts.

Study Drama at the SCPA

Redefining artistry for the 21st Century, the SCPA offers both intensive studio training and inspired intellectual inquiry, providing first class preparation for a wide range of exciting opportunities and vocations beyond graduation.

For more information on our program:



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
School of Creative and Performing Arts



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