Theatre & Dance

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Academic Programs

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The courses offered by the Theatre and Dance Department provide students with well-balanced programs of study, integrating practical production work with classes that examine the principles, theoretical aspects, and historical development of theatre and dance.

A full range of studio dance courses are offered that include ballet, modern, jazz, and ballroom. Composition and dance production are available, as well as courses designed for future teachers of dance. The department also provides general education and breadth courses in the areas of dance history and dance appreciation.

The department also acts as a cultural focus for the campus and community. An annual dance concert is presented under the auspices of the Orchesis Dance Company. Every spring a student-directed dance concert is also produced. Each quarter the department presents three main-stage theatre productions. Recent titles include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Smash*, *Falsettos*, *Betty's Summer Vacation*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Blood Wedding* (*Bodas de sangre*), *Spike Heels*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Animal Farm*, and *As You Like It*. The department also produces original works; sponsors guest lecturers and specialized workshops; and manages a program of student-directed works, field trips, and internships.

Undergraduate Programs

BA Theatre Arts

Students who major in Theatre at Cal Poly participate in a comprehensive, hands-on training program that gives them a balanced and enriched knowledge of theatre arts: acting, directing, design, playwriting, technical theatre, script analysis, and theatre history. Participation in main-stage productions, as actors and members of the artistic/production crew, is a key component of each student’s education. As a small program, the Theatre Arts B.A. allows for faculty to get to know students’ abilities and needs as individuals; promoting the selection of special projects, electives, and interests that mesh with their career ambitions. The Department's curriculum also offers courses as part of the University’s General Education Program: Introduction to Theatre, Theatre History I & II, Theatre in the United States, Global Theatre and Performance, and Topics in Diversity on the American Stage.

Dance Minor

The Dance Minor consists of 26 units designed to provide the student with a well-balanced program in the art and education of dance. Admission to the minor is contingent upon a departmental interview and review. Students must have more than a 2.0 GPA.