



JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®



School of
Theatre and Dance





The JMU School of Theatre and Dance is a vibrant undergraduate program that combines the best attributes of a liberal arts education and practical professional training.

WHY JMU THEATRE AND DANCE?



“Getting a B.A. in Theatre from JMU is really exciting because you’re encouraged to be multidisciplinary. That alone has made me feel so prepared for the outside world.”

Gwyneth Strope ('20)

Theatre

Outstanding Theatre Student for 2020



“The School of Theatre and Dance has challenged and inspired me to push past my limits. The Dance Program has transformed my life, and I have grown into a well-rounded, confident, creative, and authentic artist.”

Ashawrie White ('21)

Dance

Centennial Scholar



“JMU encouraged me to develop new skills. I discovered a love of directing, stage carpentry, and experimental theatre, all of which have deeply influenced how I create musical theatre and theatre to this day.”

Ricky Drummond ('15)

Musical Theatre

D.C.-based director/actor/playwright

BEING THE CHANGE



The School of Theatre and Dance provides students the training and resources they need to realize a unique vision for their life, education, and creative work. Our liberal arts curriculum promotes critical thinking and a deep understanding of arts and culture. We have an excellent track record of placing students in jobs in professional theatres and dance companies, on Broadway and Off-Broadway, in film and television, and as teachers, makers, and creative entrepreneurs.

Our programs are comprised of student-initiated productions, community partnerships, and performances with award-winning faculty and guest artists. We are dedicated to diversity in productions, guest artists, casting, and admissions. JMU is fully accredited by NAST and NASD.

16:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO



**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**



DANCE

Students in JMU's B.A. in Dance develop their abilities as performers, choreographers, movement instructors and community-engaged artists. The intensive curriculum prepares dancers to create, perform, produce, analyze, and teach the art of dance (PreK-12 licensure available). At the same time, the flexibility of the program allows students to pursue many interests, including the ability to minor or double major in additional subjects.

Dance graduates of the past decade have gone on to work in places like: Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, and Monica Bill Barnes & Co.

The course of study includes:

- Contemporary, ballet and jazz technique
- Improvisation and composition
- Dance production and management
- Anatomy and somatic studies
- Pedagogy and community engagement
- International performance and study abroad opportunities

Three unique levels of dance ensembles:

- Associate Ensemble
- Contemporary Dance Ensemble
- Virginia Repertory Dance Company



"AN ECLECTIC RANGE OF WELL-PERFORMED, ENGAGING DANCE WORKS [BY VIRGINIA REP]." - STYLE WEEKLY



MUSICAL THEATRE AND THEATRE

The B.A. in Musical Theatre provides professionally-focused training in acting, dance and music within the context of a broader university experience. The intensive, hands-on curriculum affords students the opportunity to develop into well-rounded, creative artists who are prepared to succeed in the professional arena.

The B.A. in Theatre provides professionally-focused training within the context of a rigorous liberal arts education. The intensive curriculum develops critical thinking, social engagement, imagination and multi-dimensional artistry. Concentrations in performance, design/technology, theatre studies and theatre education (PreK-12 licensure available) offer further opportunities to build skills within specific professional disciplines.

Theatre and Musical Theatre graduates of the past decade have gone on to work on Broadway (*Aladdin, Chicago, Miss Saigon, Hamilton*); U.S. national/international tours (*Cinderella, Jersey Boys, Mamma Mia, Kinky Boots*); cruise lines; and regional theatres including Arena Stage, Guthrie Theater, Signature Theatre, and the Kennedy Center.

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
TOP 25 MOST AMAZING
CAMPUS ARTS CENTERS
- COLLEGEDEGREESEARCH.NET



MUSICAL THEATRE AND THEATRE (CONT'D)

Musical Theatre and Theatre students collaborate on:

- Mainstage Theatre and Musical Theatre productions
- Student-run Studio Theatre productions, including plays and musicals
- Extensive student-developed opportunities:
 - Devised work
 - Playwrights' workshops
 - Independent projects

JMU has had over 40 National and Regional Finalists in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival since 2007.

Program highlights:

- New York City and Washington, D.C. Senior Showcases
- One-on-one mentorship and coaching
- Paid opportunities in arts management, design and technology, performance, and theatre education
- International performance and study abroad opportunities

One of the most active undergraduate programs in the country, performance opportunities begin in the first year.

30 GUEST ARTISTS
AND MANY MASTER CLASS OPPORTUNITIES ANNUALLY

 **90%**
FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE



Wayland Hall, a renovated bluestone building located off the Quad, is home to a thriving arts living-learning community for first-year students. The residence hall features classrooms, practice rooms, a student gallery, an art studio, and a performance space. Students participate in a one-credit seminar class that emphasizes artists as citizen leaders.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES



As the premier destination for the arts in the Shenandoah Valley, the **Forbes Center for the Performing Arts** houses first-class venues for curricular and educational purposes. Students have opportunities to work with nationally-recognized guest artists, and award-winning faculty and alumni. The Forbes Center encourages creative synergy between faculty and students.

- 175,000-square-foot facility in the heart of JMU's campus
- 250 student performances each school year
- 5 modern performing arts venues:
 - 600-seat Concert Hall
 - 198-seat Recital Hall
 - 450-seat Mainstage Theatre
 - 200-seat Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre
 - 200-seat flexible, black box Studio Theatre



Visit jmuforbescenter.com for show listings.



 j.mu/stad

 twitter.com/JMUArts

 jmu.edu/arts

 facebook.com/JMUArts

EXPLORE JMU ARTS!

For a full schedule of recruiting events,
auditions and portfolio review days, go to:

jmu.edu/arts/admissions

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 **College of Visual
and Performing Arts**

These photos were taken before COVID-19. Campus life looks much different during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing are steps Dukes take to support each other and the world.

WAYLAND HALL PHOTO BY VMDO ARCHITECTS; JMU QUAD, FORBES CENTER AND SCENE SHOP PHOTOS BY JMU CREATIVE MEDIA; STROPE PHOTO BY TIFFANY SHOWALTER; WHITE AND DRUMMOND PHOTOS COURTESY OF STAD; ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY RICHARD FINKELSTEIN.