
New Student FAQ's

Information for Theatre students can be found at:

<https://www.millikin.edu/academics/cas/theatre-dance/resources/current-students>

Special links For Freshmen and Transfer students can be found at:

<https://www.millikin.edu/academics/cas/theatre-dance/resources/current-students/departmental-forms>

READ YOUR MILLIKIN EMAIL—There will be many important messages and announcements sent.

What is Theatre Practicum-TH 101?

Students gain a broad base of experience working behind the scenes during three semesters in the program. These experiences help develop a sense of collaboration and volunteerism, and often, a second marketable skill in publicity, theatre management, properties construction, scenic and costume construction, lighting, etc... Each semester a student signs up for either a preparation or running crew for a main stage show. All Theatre students (except for Design/Production majors) complete 3 semesters.

What are the Mainstage and Studio seasons for next year?

MAINSTAGE: FALL 2022

Everybody by Branden Jacobs Jenkins

Directed by Emily Coleman

October 13 – 16

Elf book by Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan based on *Elf* by David Berenbaum,
lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and music by Matthew Sklar.

Directed by Kevin Long, Music Directed by Beth Creighton, Choreographed by Marie Jagger-Taylor

November 11-13

Solstice: A Concert of Dance

Directed by Angie Miller

December 8 - 10

MAINSTAGE: SPRING 2023

Fairview by Jackie Sibblies Drury

Directed by Tony Morton

March 9 - 12

Into the Woods book by James Lapine and music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Jefferson Farber, Music Directed by Kevin Long

April 13 - 16

Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica (2 one-act operas) by Jeanine Tesori, libretto by Brian Crawley

Directed by Dr. Ian Greenlaw, Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra directed by Dr. William McClain

May 11 - 14

STUDIO SEASON 2022-2023

Theatre for Young Audiences, title: TBA October 28 - 29

Other productions TBA

What is the Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre season?

FALL 2022

American Psycho book by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, music and lyrics by Duncan Sheik
October 28 - November 11

SPRING 2023

Spring Awakening book and lyrics by Steven Sater, music by Duncan Sheik
February 24 - March 11

Stop Kiss by Diana Son
April 14 - 22

Do Acting majors and BA students need to sing at the general auditions?

Freshmen and Sophomore BFA Acting majors are required to sing at auditions; Juniors and Seniors may petition out. Any BA student may choose not to sing, but if so, that student will not be considered for singing roles in the musical. While you may not be an accomplished singer, you can show that you can act a song and that you take every opportunity seriously to demonstrate your abilities. There are often character roles in musicals that need strong actors rather than strong singers.

Do Musical Theatre majors have to sing in a choir?

No, there is no choir requirement. You may choose to audition for a choir.

How are Voice lessons for Musical Theatre majors scheduled?

Voice lessons are actually scheduled individually between each student and their voice professor at the beginning of each semester. Your voice professor will email you to schedule a time. If you have not heard from your voice teacher by the time Welcome Week begins, please let us know so we can help you make inquiries. You should begin your lessons the first week of class.

What kinds of Dance shoes are recommended and where can I get them?

Like any line of work that requires professional equipment, dancers need quality shoes. It's fine to go cheap on ballet shoes (provided you stick with known brands such as Bloch, Capezio or Sansha). There are many styles of jazz shoes. Split sole jazz shoes are very popular, some have rubber soles some have suede. The materials from which the soles are made are a personal preference. Ultimately dancers want to have shoes appropriate for any dance floor (some are slick, and some are not). Traction is important to help prevent injuries. Again, brands such as Capezio, Bloch and Sansha are reliable. When it comes to character shoes, however, you should consider investing in a good pair of shoes. See link below for some websites and some recommendations for shoes known to be of good quality. Keep in mind that many of these styles of shoes may be purchased online from several places (Amazon, 6pm, Zappos, or from the manufacturer websites), so shop around for the best price! Buying the least expensive shoe is not typically recommended. In dance shoes, you get what you pay for.

<https://millikin.edu/academics/cas/theatre-dance/resources/current-students/school-forms>

Notes

- For larger shoe sizes
 - Men with a shoe size larger than a 13, need to special order ballet shoes from Capezio BEFORE arriving on campus. Allow up to 6 weeks for delivery.
 - Women with a shoe size larger than 10, will need to special order, or do an extensive search for shoes.

- Miller and Ben Shoes all come without taps. Miller and Ben will install taps for an additional fee (recommended) but all styles can be purchased without taps to be worn as character shoes. The styles recommended are those that we think may be the most versatile.
- Shoe sizes vary quite a bit from manufacturer to manufacturer. Before purchasing shoes be sure to inquire about sizing. Your street shoe size will not always be the right fit in a dance shoe.
- Quality dance shoes are expensive. While you do not need to spend \$200-\$300, you do get what you pay for in dance shoes. Cheaper shoes are more difficult to dance in, are more likely to break or fall apart, and are not as good for your feet.
- Fit is essential. Dance shoes should fit like a glove without pinching or putting pressure on your toes. Shoes with excess room in them are more likely to cause injury than those that fit well. This is especially true with women's heels.

Is reading a syllabus really important?

Absolutely! Syllabi will give you valuable information about classes that often is not discussed in class. Assignments and their deadlines, exams, quizzes, attendance and lateness policies, classroom etiquette and expectations, laptop and cellphone policies, and dress codes (if there are any) are among the things listed in a course syllabus. All classes are different, all teachers have their own methods and policies, and students are held accountable to the information in the syllabus (**such as when your assignments are due**).

What is an academic advisor?

Academic advisors are faculty members who serve as guides/mentors to students to ensure a successful journey through the college experience. While a primary function of an advisor is to help students schedule classes and keep them on track to graduate on time, other functions of the advisor may include: adding a minor, helping you change your major, discussing career plans, discussing challenges you may be having with courses, rehearsals, living arrangements, social issues, etc. Advisors are there to help you navigate the complexities of the college experience. There are times when advisors may not have all the answers you are seeking, in which case, they may refer you to a variety of experts on campus who can help you.

Who is my advisor?

You will find out who your academic advisor is during Welcome Week. We highly recommend scheduling a meeting with your advisor early in the semester to introduce yourself and to get acquainted with them. It is not unusual for several semesters to pass before you take a class taught by your advisor. In rare cases, some students may never take a class taught by their advisor.

How do I schedule a meeting with my advisor?

All faculty are required to hold office hours every week. These times are set aside for students to schedule meetings, drop in to discuss issues, get signatures for forms you may need to submit, etc... Every advisor has their own methods, but it's always best to email them to schedule a meeting.

What if my advisor's office hours are during my classes?

Email your advisor to identify an alternate time to meet.

How should I address my professors?

In the School of Theatre and Dance we are all on a first name basis. Theatre is a collaborative art form that tends to dismiss formal hierarchies in favor of a more casual environment. Everyone is equally important to the artistic process in their own way. However, many other faculty members in other departments and schools across campus expect a much more formal greeting (Dr, Professor, Ms, Mrs, Mr, etc..). Teachers will often tell you how they wish to be greeted but if they do not, it's helpful to ask so as to avoid awkward encounters or the appearance of disrespect. When in doubt, however, a simple "Hello, Professor X," is always appropriate.

If you have other questions e-mail Denise Myers: dmyers@millikin.edu

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