

# Florida State School of Theatre

## MFA Technical Production

239 Fine Arts Building  
Tallahassee FL 32306  
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850 644 4305

### Selected Technical Production Classes

#### **Structural Design for the Stage I & II**

Structures I, II - Strength of materials and engineering techniques using non-calculus math

#### **Technical Production I & II:**

Explores the production process from script choice to load out.

#### **Electricity and Electronics**

Introduction to electricity and electronics primarily used in the entertainment industry for lighting, sound, automation, and show control.

#### **Physics for the Stage**

An introduction to the physics of moving scenery for the design of stage machinery.

#### **Advanced Technical Drafting:**

An in depth study of AutoCAD 2013 to increase proficiency as well as communication through technical drawings.

#### **Stage Rigging:**

An analysis of safe rigging practices, equipment, and loading constraints for permanent and temporary theatrical rigging.

#### **Leadership and Management:**

Study of management techniques and the elements of effective leadership.

#### **Technical Production and Management:**

Examines planning and execution of complex projects as a technical and production manager for the performing arts.

#### **Hydraulics and Pneumatics:**

An introduction to the use and design of hydraulic and pneumatic machinery and devices for the stage.

#### **Design of Stage Machinery:**

A study of machine design for the stage, which incorporates physical constraints, power needs, and the safety factors involved.

#### **Industrial Hygiene for the Stage:**

Industrial hygiene(safety)for theatre technicians.

#### **Automation Control:**

A theoretical and practical look at the control side of automated scenery, which includes switch logic, PLC programming, positioning feedback, and power considerations.

#### **Leadership and Organizational Management in the Arts**

An overview of effective leadership practices in the arts

#### **Practicum in Technical Theatre**

Practical application of class work and training,

#### **Internship**

Various internships available (recently, Asolo Conservatory, David Hearn/Flying by Foy, Opera New Jersey, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Reed Rigging.)

## **Selected electives, Directed Independent Study, Selected Topics**

According to individual student needs.

### **Other Classes Include:**

**Theatre History**  
**Play Analysis**  
**Music Theatre History**  
**Principles of Theatre Management**  
**Business and Legal Issues in the Arts**  
**Project Management**  
**Resource Management**

### **Semester Reviews**

#### **MFA Qualifying Examination:**

Review of portfolio, resume, and progress by MFA Technical Production faculty every semester.

### **Thesis Defense**

#### **Creative Thesis**      Third Year

Typically a Mainstage Technical Production, but may be other large project.  
Portfolio review: All work done while in graduate school—class work, special projects, and technical production work supporting students' "arc of development" over 3 year residency to justify the award of Master of Fine Arts in Technical Theatre.

### **Assistantships**

#### **Tuition waiver**

**Stipend** --approximately \$ 8,300.00 for the school year.

**Assistantship Jobs include:** (approx. 20 hours per week):

#### **Shop Staff**

**Technical Director at Asolo Conservatory or Repertory**

#### **Lab Supervisor**

#### **Production Staff**

#### **Teaching Assistant (potential in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year)**

Assistant teaching and/or independent teaching course such as:

**Rigging, Introduction to Stage Craft, Intermediate Technical Practices,**

**Theatre Safety, Stage Craft Laboratory, Intro to Lighting, Intro to Painting.**

### **Scene Shop Personnel**

#### **Full time professional staff:**

#### **Joshua Wickham**

#### **Scenic Studio Manager:**

Joshua Wickham began his professional theatre career by earning a BA in theatre from SUNY Oswego in 1999. After working for Glimmerglass Opera and Hartford Stage, Joshua spent nine years at Syracuse Stage. Seven of those years were as the Assistant Technical Director. He then enrolled in the Technical Production program at FSU and earned his MFA in 2012. Upon graduating Joshua became the Scenic Studio Manager of the new facility.

**Colin Campbell****Asst. Scene Shop Manager**

Colin Campbell is a graduate of FSU the School of Theatre and has a specialized degree from the carpentry program of the North Bennett Street School in Boston MA. Colin has worked locally as a theatrical technician at Tallahassee Community College, where he contributed to the development of their program, and also in the New England area for the Centennial Theatre Festival and SBL Lighting Design. Colin has worked in both commercial and residential construction. Colin has over fifteen years of experience.

**Erin Kehr****Property Master**

Erin Kehr has experience in almost every aspect of production and design work with emphasis on makeup, scenic design/construction and properties. Erin graduated from DePaul University's Theatre School with a BFA in scenic design. He has designed the sets for over thirty shows on both the community and regional theatre level and acted as the Technical Director for over twenty of them. He has done freelance prop design for companies such as Opera San Jose, Theatre Rhinoceros, Theatrovision and the Pre-Broadway run of "Wicked" in San Francisco. He is the former staff prop master for Theatreworks in California. Erin recently provided the scenic design for *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

**Jason Strom****Scenic Charge/Paint Shop Manager**

Jason Strom earned an Arts Diploma in Scenic Art at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the tutelage of Howard Jones and Franco Colavecchia. His professional experiences include painting scenery for The McCarter Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre, John Creech Design and Production, LIV Design, Inc., Carnegie-Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, and for productions both on and off-Broadway. Mr. Strom has worked with many contemporary designers including Robert Brill, David Gallo, Derek McLane, and Dan Ettinger. Recently, he painted a mural for a permanent exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and taught a master class in Scenic Art at Point Park University.

**Ombra Sandifer****Production Manager**

Originally from Aiken, SC, Ms. Sandifer graduated in 1994 from USC Aiken with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She specialized in theatre and speech communications and minored in English. Three years later, she completed her Master of Arts degree in drama from the University of Arkansas. Ms. Sandifer has an array of experience in theatre production and teaching. Her teaching experience in higher education includes theatre courses at Florida State University, the University of Arkansas, Rose Hill College, and the University of South Carolina Aiken. She has also served on several educational panels at the Southeastern Theatre Conference. She has directed several productions including: *Root of Chaos*, *Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Marie and Bruce*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Huck Finn's Story*, and *Charlotte's Web*. She also worked for many years as a professional free lance stage manager, and continues to do so whenever possible

<b>Graduate Assistants:</b>	12-16 MFA Technical Production Students
<b>BA Technical Production Students</b>	Varies per semester—4-10
<b>Scenery Lab Students:</b>	Varies per semester--18 to 20

**Scene Shop**

Newly renovated 35,000. ft. well-equipped carpentry and metalworking Scenic Studio. All standard tools plus cold cut metal saw, Hossfeld bender, ShopBot CNC router, Bridgeport Vertical Milling machine. (Search Facebook- FSU Technical Production—to see shop photos)

## **Electromechanical Laboratory**

An automation and show control classroom equipped to support motion and show control training. Equipment includes:

Oscilloscopes	Programming and control software (such as Automation Studio and DirectSoft)
Function generators	Direct Logic PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers)
Hydraulic Power Units	AC/DC motors
Full pneumatic capabilities	
Show Control and Projection gear	

## **Motion Control Equipment**

Hudson Scenic Studios Digital Winch Units  
Goddard Design Analog VDC Winch Units  
Numerous AC and DC winches  
Wide range of hydraulic and pneumatic equipment  
Fallon stage has built-in full stage revolve (dia.30’).

## **Projection Equipment**

3 Sanyo 6400 lumen projectors, 2000:1 contrast, ethernet control  
4 WATCHOUT Computers – Dual Core, GeForce 8800, Video Capture, 500GB  
DVI-Ethernet extensions  
KVM Switch and Extender (ethernet) for flexibility during technical rehearsals

## **Theatre Spaces**

**Fallon Theatre**--Mainstage--large proscenium with a 490 seat house  
**Conradi Studio Theatre**--smaller proscenium with 190 seat house  
**Lab Theatre**--small thrust--3/4 round with 160 seat house  
**Arts Annex Theatre**—small proscenium with 150-seat house.  
**Asolo Conservatory- Cook Theatre**

## **FSU School of Theatre Season**

Typical Season includes a large Mainstage musical and a BFA lab musical, as well as classical and modern shows

Six to nine shows fully produced per year:

- Four Mainstage shows
- Two Lab shows
- Two Children’s Shows
- New Horizons Playwright Festival- A festival of new works by student playwrights.
- MFA Director Projects, MFA Director One-Acts and Short Cuts

## **Typical Technical Production Opportunities**

Two production assignments per year:

### **First year**

- Assistant Technical Director, typically on Mainstage production
- Possible Technical Director for a small production for a Lab or Studio show

### **Second year**

- One or two Technical Direction assignments: Lab, Studio or Mainstage production

### **Third year**

Creative thesis, Internship, Asolo Conservatory or Repertory assignment, 7 Days of Opening Nights

### **Scenery Budgets**

**Mainstage**--from \$ 2,500. to \$ 5,500. (scenery)

**Lab and Studio Productions**--about \$ 1,000 to \$3,000. (scenery)

### **Prospective Students**

Prospective students must schedule an interview with Robert Coleman. Interviews can be held at the School of Theatre in Tallahassee by appointment. Robert Coleman will also be available for interviews at U/RTA New York, U/RTA Chicago, and the USITT Conference in Milwaukee.

### **Technical Production Faculty:**

**Robert H. Coleman, Program Director, MFA Technical Production Program**, has contributed to over three hundred Dance, Opera, and Dramatic Theatre productions. Until recently, he was Director of Production at the Opera Festival of New Jersey at McCarter Theatre in Princeton NJ during the summer season. During his tenure, the Opera Festival presented several world premieres and was considered by *Opera News* and *Money* to be among the top ten summer festivals in the U.S and in the top twenty worldwide.

Robert worked professionally for a number of years before a desire to teach led him to graduate school for his MFA. He attended Ohio University for a year before transferring to the Yale School of Drama in 1995. He was graduated from the Yale School of Drama with an MFA in Technical Design and Production in 1998.

He was the Head of the Technical Program at the University of Tennessee for three years and also served at the Technical Director for the school and the Clarence Brown Company, the University of Tennessee's LORT theatre company.

He came to Tallahassee in August of 2001 to FSU School of Theatre's nationally prominent MFA Technical Production program where he is an Associate Professor and Program Director of the Technical Production program.

He continues his professional career, acting as Technical Consultant to a number of notable scenic designers and theatre companies. Recently, he was Technical Consultant to Designer Kris Stone for the Abbey Theatre's production of *Lolita*. Robert was a Fly-in Technician (now referred to as 'Global Resources Services) for Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* North American tour. More recently, he acted as Interim Assistant Technical Director for Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* European Tour in Vienna and Antwerp. He has worked in Global Resources Services for Cirque du Soleil, serving in Antwerp, Madrid, London, Barcelona, Rotterdam, Oostende, and Zurich, Geneva, Valencia, Malaga, Berlin, and Frankfurt.

**Jim Lile, Assistant Professor of MFA Technical Production**, Jim has a wide variety of experience in his 25 years of working live theatre. Prior to joining the FSU faculty, Jim was the Production Manager for Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, a position he held for seven years. He earned an MFA in Technical Design and Production in 1999 from Yale School of Drama. Following graduation he went on to work at Purdue University Theatre as an Assistant Professor and Technical Director. Over the years he has been the Technical Director, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer or staff member for a variety of theatrical and dance companies. A few of the companies he has worked with are: Norwegian Cruise Lines, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pensacola Opera, Nashville Opera and The Iowa State Center and The

Des Moines Civic Center. He was a member of IATSE Local 174 in Lafayette, Indiana. He served as the Production Manager and Technical Director for Des Moines Metro Opera for over ten years. He has worked on hundreds of rock concerts, Broadway tours, conferences and sporting events. He spent nine years as stage manager for the Iowa State Center's Nutcracker Ballet.

He continues to work as a freelance Production Manager, Technical Director and Consultant for several regional opera companies around the country. Jim enjoys teaching and bringing his professional experience to the classroom.

### Contact Current Graduate Students

Samantha Miller '13	<a href="mailto:slm10e@fsu.edu">slm10e@fsu.edu</a>
Scott Vandenberg '13	<a href="mailto:svandenberg@fsu.edu">svandenberg@fsu.edu</a>
Erin Kehr '13	<a href="mailto:ekehr@fsu.edu">ekehr@fsu.edu</a>
John Keisling '14	<a href="mailto:brc11c@my.fsu.edu">brc11c@my.fsu.edu</a>
Erin Solemsaas '14	<a href="mailto:jmk11g@my.fsu.edu">jmk11g@my.fsu.edu</a>
Bryce Copp '14	<a href="mailto:ems11k@my.fsu.edu">ems11k@my.fsu.edu</a>
Paul Anton '15	<a href="mailto:pa12@myfsu.edu">pa12@myfsu.edu</a>
Matthew Frasier '15	<a href="mailto:mbatemanfrasier@gmail.com">mbatemanfrasier@gmail.com</a>
Eric Pettit '14	<a href="mailto:eapettit@gmail.com">eapettit@gmail.com</a>
Jeremy Toedter '15	<a href="mailto:jeremytoed@gmail.com">jeremytoed@gmail.com</a>

### Recent Graduate Employment

David Kaplan '02	Technical Director	Kean University
Zak Stribling '03	Technical Director	University of Kentucky
Jill Collins '03	Project Manager	Theatre Projects Consultants
Allison Helms '04	Freelance Theatre Technician	North Carolina
Jason Peliwo '04	Mgr.-Rigging & Staging	Universal Studio
Richard Girtain '05	Technical Director	Guthrie Theatre
Daniel Archibald	Scenic Studio Manager	Oklahoma State Univ.
Anne Carncross '05	Technical Director	Florida Gulf Coast University
Mike Layton '05	Asst. Technical Director	University of Central Florida
Ed Saindon '06	Project Manager	Industrial Displays
Bill Kimble '06	Technical Director	Harrison School for the Arts
Matthew Chandler '07	Asst. Production Manager	Goodman Theatre
Ben Dawson '07	Technical Director	Atlantic Theatre
Michael Smith '07	Asst. Prof., Sound Designer	Elon University
David Smith '07	Faculty Technical Director	Centurion University
Rob Waltz '07	Head of Automation <i>Zumanity</i>	Cirque du Soleil
Doug Hildeman '08	Production Manager	Univ. of Notre Dame
Travis Palmer '08	Project Manager	Aerospace and Theatre Design
DJ Haugen '08	Artistic Administrator	New Jersey Opera Theatre
Andrew Hagan '08	Designer/Drafter	Theatre Projects Consultants
Rick DiGiuseppe '09	Technical Director	Two Rivers Theatre
Katie Nesbit '10	Faculty Technical Director	Virginia Tech. Univ.
Ruth McCormack '10	Asst. Technical Director	Goodman Theatre
Jon Simon '10	Technical Director	Clarice Smith Perf. Arts Ctr.
Michael Driggers '10	Faculty Technical Director	Valdosta State University
Matt Gist '10	Technical Director	Auburn University
Lobello, Vince '11	Technical Director	Seton Hill Univ.
Digneit, Bill '11	Principal, Double Trouble DJs	Minnesota
Lawrence, Tony '11	Technical Director	Washington & Lee Univ.

Richoux, Robert '11  
Amy Schneider '12  
Jon Sternberg '12  
Ree Seminole '12  
Dylan Callery '12  
Joshua Wickham '13  
Samantha Miller '13

Technical Director  
Technical Director  
Asst. Technical Director  
Asst. Technical Director  
Draftperson  
Scenic Studio Manager  
Technical Director

Peach State Festival  
Merry Go Round Theatre  
Two Rivers Theatre  
Auburn Univ.  
Trinity Repertory  
FSU  
Univ. of Miami

## **Contact:**

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