About the Program
Theatre students at Slippery Rock University develop their art through a synthesis of experiences in academic classrooms, design and acting laboratories, and public performance spaces. Theatre at SRU is a liberal arts program, which serves to enrich students’ understanding of and connection to the outside world as well as strong pre-professional focus, which prepares students for careers as performers, designers, writers and technicians.

Acting
Actors at SRU receive top-flight pre-professional training. In addition to “Fundamentals of Acting”, “Acting II” and “Acting Shakespeare”, students can take up to three sections of Acting Technique, a course focusing on specialized topics such as auditioning, Meisner technique and performing the works of Harold Pinter and David Mamet. Central to SRU’s theatre program is the “Shakespeare Emphasis,” in which students receive intensive training in the particular skills needed for performance of the works of the world’s greatest playwright. Most seasons include a Shakespearean play as one of the four mainstage productions and all acting students have the opportunity to perform in a touring group that brings Shakespeare to local schools and community centers.

Arts Administration
The arts administration track prepares undergraduate students for careers in administration and support services for nonprofit cultural agencies, institutions and performing arts organizations. Students gain hands-on experience through theatre department productions and the annual Kaleidescope Arts Festival. The track is enhanced by relationships with the Midwestern Arts and Humanities Foundation, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, UnSeam’d Shakespeare Company and numerous other local and regional arts organizations and artists.

Design and Technology
Students gain skills that enable them to make, justify and execute production and design choices. They learn to analyze scripts and characters. They research and synthesize information from many sources, helping to develop original ideas. They demonstrate technical abilities and techniques, develop diverse construction methods and learn theatre safety. They meet deadlines, work within a budget and develop excellent design skills.

International Travel
Every other year, SRU theatre department travels to Edinburgh, Scotland to perform in the renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival – the largest theatre festival in the world. Our all student cast and crew, which performs world premiere plays for international audience, partake in a truly life-changing experience.

Majors
- Theatre (BA)
- Acting
- Arts Administration
- Design and Technology

Minor
- Theatre
The Costume Shop

The SRU Costume Shop is a well-equipped room with natural lighting used for teaching costuming classes and for creating costumes for theatre productions. It contains professional-standard sewing machines, pressing equipment and dress forms, including half-scale forms for the teaching of patterning and draping. An industrial upholstery sewing machine is used for costumes and props. A considerable inventory of costumes is partially housed in the Costume Shop as well as fabric storage, hats, accessories and makeup equipment. A dedicated computer, digitizer pad and printer are used by the faculty and students for the recording and manipulation of antique garment patterns.

Auditions

Auditions are open to any registered SRU student. The department produces two main stage shows each semester, and "joint auditions" for both shows are usually conducted in the first week of the fall and spring semesters. We like to see new faces, and directors generally aim for a blend of established majors and newcomers. Recent productions include: "Electra", "Merchant of Venice", "Richard III", "Dead Man’s Cell Phone", "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson", and "The Importance of Being Earnest".

Career Opportunities

Theatre majors will find a variety of career opportunities in theatre and related fields. Our graduates have performed, designed and stage managed productions in regional theatres, as well as on film and television. They have formed their own companies, became theatre educators, playwrights and producers.

Internships

- Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts
- Benedum Center
- Berkeley Rep
- Carnegie Science Center
- Glimmerglass Opera
- Juilliard School
- Squonk Opera
- Steppenwolf Theater
- Pittsburgh Public Theater
- Three Rivers Entertainment