

Engaged in a Theater of Community

The theater program at Quinnipiac encompasses much more than acting. It has far-reaching effects for students, faculty and members of the regional arts and the broader community.

Unique in Connecticut, Quinnipiac's *Theater for Community* immerses drama students in all aspects of theater—from acting and directing to lighting and stage design. The program creates productions designed to enlighten, heal and bring about change. The performances raise provocative questions that engage the performers as well as the audience.

Using original or adapted scripts, students stage plays that address such compelling issues as revenge, war, prejudice and justice. Each production is selected based on certain criteria. From the beginning, students are involved in a different kind of theatrical experience, researching the underlying issues and talking to key players—those whose experiences mimic those of the characters.

The program and productions have received praise for their professional quality and artistic integrity. Several of the plays have qualified for the Region I Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, moving on to the semifinal round. Quinnipiac students have been nominees for the Region I Irene Ryan Acting Awards competition.

Four productions have been recognized by ACTF. *Dead Man Walking* has been held over for the 2007 regional festival, joining *The Antigone Project*, *The Troubles of Romeo and Juliet* and *The Beggar's Opera* from previous years. *Antigone* included video interviews of local war veterans who shared their insights about the horrors of war. In *Dead Man Walking*, the innovative staging provided an unflinching view of vengeance and compassion—taking an intense look into the final thoughts and psyche of a convicted murderer on death row. The provocative adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* placed the star-crossed lovers against the backdrop of recent Northern Ireland.

Cover photo: Anastacia Tucker '08 in *Walls*



Casey Manning '07 in *Dead Man Walking*. Inset: Actor Tim Robbins with cast members

Photos by John Hassett & Sven Marston

Theater for Community Advisory Board

- Louise Endel, board member, Long Wharf Theatre
- Alice Forrester, associate executive director, Clifford Beers Clinic
- David Ives, executive director, Albert Schweitzer Institute
- Mary Lou Lauricella, drama therapist and artistic director of the Homefront Theater Company, West Haven Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Tim Robbins, actor and director
- Peter Webster, freelance theater director and community activist

About Quinnipiac

Quinnipiac University is a private, co-educational, nonsectarian institution of higher education that consistently ranks among the top regional universities in *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges*. The university enrolls more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 65 programs of study in business, communications, education, health sciences, law and liberal arts.

For More Information

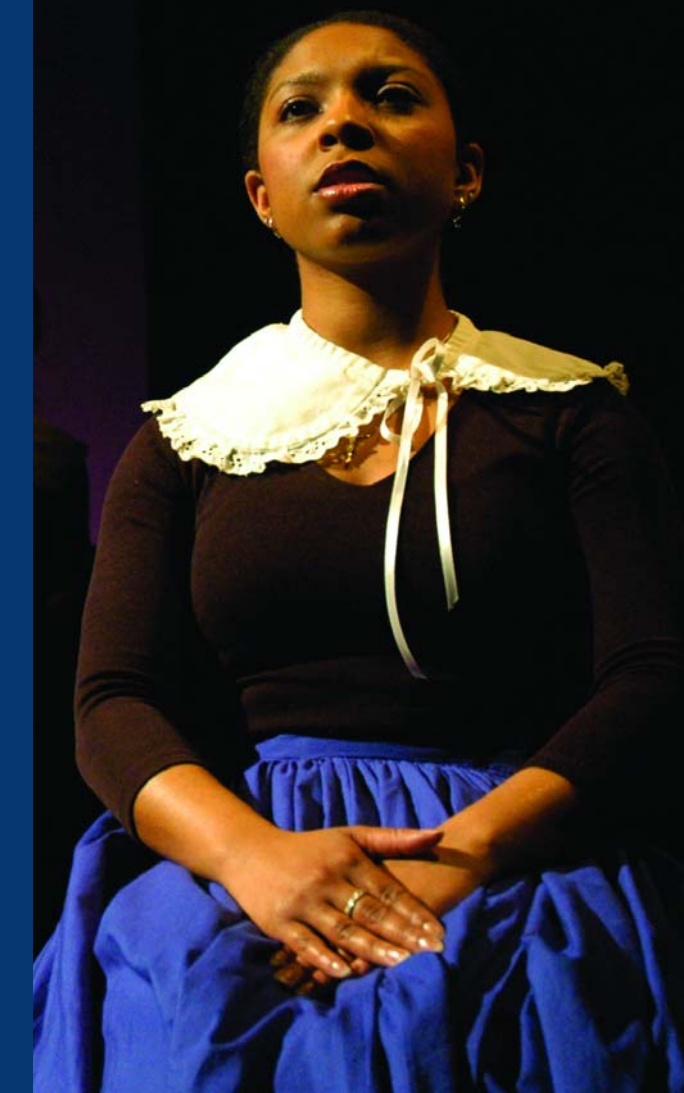
To learn more about the theater program contact: Crystal Brian, PhD, *Chair, Theater Department* 203-582-8394 or crystal.brian@quinnipiac.edu Office of Admissions at 203-582-8600 or 800-462-1944; or visit the Web site at www.quinnipiac.edu

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THEATER PROGRAM



A Unique Perspective

The guiding principle of the Theater for Community program is the conviction that theater can be a tool to foster student engagement with the local, national and global community. Students are introduced to diverse social issues and topics outside of their everyday experiences and, as a result, are forced to explore the topic from a different perspective.

Certainly, the program equips students to become theater professionals, but with an emphasis on using their profession to make a real difference in the world. Quinnipiac students use their training to become not only actors, directors, playwrights, designers and stage managers, but also educators, counselors, health professionals, journalists and social workers—who know how to use drama as an effective tool.

Theater Partnership

The Theater for Community program has a special partnership with the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, one of the most celebrated equity theaters in the country and often the professional stage for pre-Broadway productions. Many of Quinnipiac's productions have been staged at the Long Wharf and students benefit from working and studying with the theater's artists and staff. On campus, a fully equipped "black box" theater brings the audience into the workings of the play. The theater group also works closely with the Quinnipiac School of Communications to develop visual and multimedia dimensions for many of the productions.

Opportunities for Personal Growth

Quinnipiac drama students directly experience the real-life contexts of the productions. They traveled extensively in Northern Ireland to deepen their understanding of conflict, peace and reconciliation for the adaptation *The Troubles of Romeo and Juliet* and *Walls*. For the intense *Dead Man Walking* theater project, students journeyed to Louisiana and visited with Sister Helen Prejean, author of the book on which the play is based. They also toured the Death House at Angola State Prison and sat in the cell where one of the main characters spent his final hours.



"The Quinnipiac theater program helped me understand my passion for writing and theater. But more important, it helped me understand there's a larger world that each individual lives within and everything we do affects it."
—Kevin Daly '04 (above, with Allison Clark '05) MFA candidate (full scholarship), University of Indiana at Bloomington

Outstanding Guests

Distinguished theater artists candidly discuss their work and interact with drama students. Past guests have included:

Anna Deavere Smith, playwright and actress whose credits include *The West Wing*, *Presidio Med*, *Fires in the Mirror* and *Twilight: Los Angeles*

Tim Robbins, known not only for *Dead Man Walking* but for his unforgettable performances in *Mystic River* and *The Shawshank Redemption*

Tina Howe, Pulitzer prize-winning professional playwright for *Pride's Crossing* and *Painting Churches*

Joan Schirle, co-artistic director of Dell'Arte Company

Dael Orlandersmith, actress and author of *Yellowman*

"Professor Crystal Brian has revolutionized the Quinnipiac University theater program by allying it with the school's sociology, philosophy and especially political science departments."
—Chris Arnott, *The New Haven Advocate*

Affiliation with the Albert Schweitzer Institute

The Quinnipiac University Theater for Community often collaborates with the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University on projects and productions that seek to explore and embody Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy of reverence for life. In the recent past, Nobel Prize Laureate and Schweitzer Institute board member Betty Williams has worked with theater students on understanding the nature of conflict.

Bachelor of Arts in Theater

(will begin Fall 2007)*

The Quinnipiac University bachelor of arts in theater is a preprofessional program that prepares students for careers in educational and applied theater, professional theater performance, production and administration. The major allows students to select one of four focus areas for their major: generalist (covering all aspects of theater performance and production); theater education; theater production/administration; and theater for community.

Students interested in adding a theater certification to their secondary education and subject area degrees (BA/MAT) can coordinate their studies with the Division of Education.

*pending CT DHE approval



Internships

Professionally based training and internships, required for all theater majors, enhance employment opportunities in those areas most sought after in professional and educational theater. Sites include:

- American Theater Wing's Springboard Program
- Elm Shakespeare Company
- The Goodspeed Opera House
- Hartford Stage
- Highville Mustard Seed Charter School
- The International Festival of Arts & Ideas
- Long Wharf Theatre
- Playwrights' Horizons
- West Haven Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Westport Country Playhouse

Meaningful Outcomes

Graduates have entered fields in which theater plays a vital role. Some have entered professional theater. Others have gone on for advanced degrees, while still others have used their theater background in teaching, social work and health. Here are just a few examples:

Neil Breen '02, sound production, Hartford Stage, Hartford, Conn.

Allison Clark '05, MFA program in performance and society, Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I.

Kevin Daly '04, MFA playwriting program, Indiana State University, Bloomington, Ind.

Josslyn DeCrosta '05, company manager, Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, Conn.

Susan Dering '04, junior high school teacher, Virginia

Erin Gaughan '02, production assistant, television and film, Los Angeles, Calif.

Nikki Levine '04, production assistant and assistant director, feature films, Los Angeles, Calif.

Justin Sintic-Liebman '04, actor, feature films, Los Angeles, Calif.

"Working with Dr. Crystal Brian, I have learned how the stage can be used not only as a form of entertainment, but as a way to touch the community on an intimate level. Using theater as a medium for social change, I have witnessed how performances can help to break down the emotional walls that separate one human being from another."

—Kathryn Grassi '07, Painted Post, NY