



WE PRACTICE WHAT WE TEACH

MFA in Theatre Voice Pedagogy

(2 year study program + thesis)

Our program provides graduates with a comprehensive base for a wide-ranging career in the professional theatre and in theatre training schools as voice, speech and text teachers and coaches. Graduates also gain the experience necessary to work within the broader field of communication as it relates to education, business, public relations and society at large.

The program is focused on developing a teacher and coach with a mature vision of how an actor or client can best develop their communicative power. Our students learn to promote an authentic, embodied, flexible and responsive voice; one richly communicating a vibrant life and world view, whether in the service of theatre or society in general.

The training of a voice specialist requires in-depth study of theatrical forms and texts, vocal development, speech and dialects, research skills, public speaking; all within a variety of teaching practices and forums. It also requires strong mentorship throughout the two years of putting theory into practice.

Ideal Applicants:

- Mature professionals with an undergraduate degree in Theatre, primarily with studies in acting or directing, and significant professional experience.
- Age ranges to date have been from mid-20s to mid-50s.

Why study Voice Pedagogy at UAlberta?

- Train with Betty Moulton and David Ley: two of Canada's foremost voice, speech and text specialists.
We complement each other's approach but have different styles, giving MFAs the benefit of observing two approaches and their effects in practice. Further study of other major methods occurs in dedicated Voice Pedagogy seminars. We have strong backgrounds in heightened text and movement studies, particularly through our professional coaching, with strong influences from Linklater, Berry, Rodenburg and the Alexander technique. Our core value lies in the belief that the new voice teacher needs to have a wide view of the field to chart the course of their practice.
- The Department of Drama provides a rich environment for developing the skills and personal esthetic of the voice professional with access to all programs. The curriculum includes many opportunities to attend, observe, and participate in classes, rehearsals and productions; coach individuals and groups in the BA, BFA, MA and MFA programs in private session, classes and productions; and teach a variety of undergraduate classes. Each year of study and practice covers a wide range of the classical and modern repertoire. Instruction and research with other faculty members is strongly supported; for example, in movement or linguistic research.
- Connect your studies to the medical side of voice with selected courses through the UofA's Speech Pathology and Audiology Department, focusing on the latest advances in voice and speech science, vocal hygiene, and health issues.

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www.drama.ualberta.ca

- Since the program was established in 2006 our alumni are now teaching voice and acting at the following institutions: the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba; Memorial University/ Grenfell College, Newfoundland; Douglas College, BC; Thompson Rivers University, BC; University of Calgary, Alberta; Grant MacEwan University, Alberta.
- Edmonton boasts more theatre organizations per capita than any other city in Canada. Many of the professional directors, actors and designers regularly teach, direct and design in the department, giving the student vocal coaches experience with professionals throughout the year.

Specific MFA Voice program Courses (4 semesters):

- **Voice Pedagogy I and II:** study of major influences on voice teaching, pedagogy for classes and individuals, vocal development, speech (IPA) and dialect training, text analysis, curriculum planning
- **Vocal coaching I, II, III:** supervised coaching of a variety of genres, playing styles, actor abilities, production periods, and theatre spaces, leading toward the major thesis coaching
- **Thesis Preparation:** research of the period, playwright, playing style, with a specific focus on chosen field of study e.g. punctuation in Shakespeare, the intersection of singing and speaking pedagogy

Other Required Courses:

Methods and Tools of Research - Drama
Speech Science - Speech Pathology and Audiology

Sampling of Optional Drama Courses:

Directing - study of styles and practical experience
Dramaturgy - including new play production
Contemporary Performance and Movement
Arts Based Research

Courses and private instruction in other departments such as Linguistics, Music, Medicine, English, Women's Studies, and the International Student Centre provide a breadth of study that fulfills the diverse interests of each student. Connections to departments such as Law and Education afford coaching experience for public speakers.

Thesis:

- Includes a major voice, speech and text coaching assignment either in the department or in the broader theatre community.
- Requires in-depth research, journaling of the experience and a major written reflection on the process. An oral defense of the practical work completes the thesis.

Funding:

- Graduate Teaching Assistantship each year in an undergraduate oral communication course prepares MFAs for work in the field of public speaking. In the second year, an additional undergraduate voice and oral communication course for Drama majors puts study into practice, devising and teaching a full semester voice course.