

Acting

Master of Fine Arts—Acting

About the MFA in Acting

The Master of Fine Arts in acting at The University of Alabama provides the tools necessary to successfully pursue a career in either performance or academia. The MFA is a rigorously structured sequence of study that provides the actor a solid base of technique and proficiency in an array of acting styles and methods. The mainstage and studio seasons provide considerable performance opportunities for MFA candidates. Typically the department produces eight shows each season with a varied repertory of dramatic styles.

With their extensive national and international connections, the faculty facilitates professional summer performance opportunities with national and international theatre companies. As many of our graduates go on to pursue professional careers, UA Theatre & Dance is committed to assisting with that transition through organizing internships and seeking local theatrical and film casting opportunities. In addition, our graduates have the opportunity to secure AEA and SAG talent agent representation through our New York Showcase.

About the Program Director

Seth Panitch, Associate Professor; Director of MFA and Undergraduate Acting Programs

Seth is an Associate Professor of Acting and heads the MFA and Undergraduate Acting programs at The University of Alabama. Seth has worked internationally in Havana, Cuba with the Ministry of Culture, Off-Broadway at the American Place Theater, Westbeth Theater Center, 59E59 Theatre, and Urban Stages Theatre; regionally at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Idaho Repertory Theatre; and in Los Angeles at the Globe Playhouse, Odyssey Theatre, Complex Theatre and the Hillside Repertory Company.

In 2010, he received the Alabama National Alumni Association's "Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award," and was named the 2010 Druid Arts Educator of the Year. He was also awarded a Leadership Board Faculty Fellowship from 2009-2012. At The University of Alabama, Seth has directed *Into the Woods*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Heiress*, *Saint Joan*, *Animal Crackers*, *Fifth of July*, *The Government Inspector*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *Moby-Dick*, and performed as a guest artist in *Moon Over Buffalo*, *A Flea in Her Ear* and *Blithe Spirit*. Seth received his MFA in Acting at the University of Washington's Professional Actor's Training Program and is a member of both the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and the Dramatists Guild of America.

Assistantships

Degree candidates in our programs may be awarded research assistantships that provide a stipend of \$1,416 per month, plus full tuition-waiver and health benefits. Please note that a number of student fees are not waived under the assistantships awarded. Additional information is available by visiting The University of Alabama Graduate School website.

To schedule an interview and/or meeting, email spanitch@ua.edu or call 205.348.3845.

* Please note: some classes are subject to change and availability.

Please consult your advisor on available courses

Curriculum

First Year

- Advanced Scene Study
- Advanced Stage Movement
- Teaching Acting
- Advanced Voice and Speech
- Script Analysis
- Playwriting
- Musical Theatre (Voice)

Second Year

- Acting Shakespeare
- Acting for the Camera
- Dialects
- Modern Acting Styles
- Graduate Theatre History I
- Graduate Theatre History II
- Musical Theatre (Dance)

Third Year

- Showcase Preparation
- Directing - University Level
- Problems in Acting - Voice Careers
- Classical Theatre
- Modern Theatre
- Musical Theatre (Voice)