

## **Master of Fine Arts—Technical Direction**

### **About the MFA in Technical Direction**

The Master of Fine Arts in Design and Technical Theatre is a small and intensely production-oriented program, focusing on discussion of theory, design techniques, and analysis/criticism of projects on stage/in studio. Students begin the program serving in support capacities on productions, in relation to chosen disciplines. As students develop and progress in their training, they will be given more challenging opportunities.

In addition to courses taken at the University, the student will normally serve as technical director for both studio and mainstage productions in Tuscaloosa. A total of 60 semester hours is required for the degree. While the curriculum is structured, individual needs and interests are met through individually planned design and production assignments.

Graduates of the Technical Direction program will be prepared to move successfully into a career in either professional or educational theatre. Admission to the program is based on a portfolio review and an interview held at USITT, the annual convention of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, or the Tuscaloosa campus.

### **About the Program Director**

#### **F. Randy deCelle, Assistant Professor; Director of Technical Production**

Specializing in technical production and entertainment automation, Randy joins the faculty after working professionally with Fisher Technical Services in Las Vegas, Nevada as an Assistant Professor and the Director of Technical Production with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Prior to joining the University, he was the Head of Electrical Design with Fisher Technical Services in Las Vegas, Nevada. While at Fisher, he was responsible for automation design on projects such as Celine Dion's Return to Las Vegas and Shrek the Musical at Drury Lane Theatre, London. Additionally, he managed automation design for projects including Disney's The World of Color and Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark on Broadway. Prior to Fisher, he was the Chair of Scenic Technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an active member of the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology serving on the Tech Expo committee and working on the 2007 Prague Quadrennial International Exhibition of Scenography and Theatre Architecture in the Czech Republic. He holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Auburn University and a Master of Fine Arts from The University of Alabama.

### **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 [rdecelle@as.ua.edu](mailto:rdecelle@as.ua.edu) or call 205.348.6253.

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

Please consult your advisor on available courses

# Curriculum

- Props Construction
- Technical Direction
- Period Decor
- Sketching and Drafting for the Theatre
- Scene Painting
- Sound Techniques for Theatre
- Computer Graphics for the Theatre
- Drawing and Rendering
- Costume Design I
- Costume Design II
- Professional Presentation for Theatre Design
- Script Analysis and Interpretation
- Theatre Management
- Theatre History I
- Theatre History II
- Advanced Theatre Practicum
- Advanced Theatre Technology
- History of Stage Design
- Lighting Design I
- Lighting Design II
- Scene Design I
- Scene Design II
- Art Direction and Special Events Design
- History of Costume for the Stage
- Figure Drawing and Painting
- History of Directing
- Advanced Drawing Seminar • Sculpture
- Stage Management
- Costume Construction I
- Fabric Modification
- Arts Administration