

Master of Fine Arts—Directing

About the MFA in Directing

The MFA directing program at the University of Alabama is an intense, three-year program with a dual focus on production and preparation for academia. Each year, the MFA directing candidates take part in a yearlong graduate seminar that emphasizes exploration, presentation and mentorship. Through guided exploration of key concepts in professional contemporary directing, consistent opportunities to present (and assess) each MFA candidate's developing vision, as well as ongoing mentorship tailored to each MFA candidate's degree goals and career goal, students graduate with a rigorous and broad understanding of the craft of directing as well as insight into their individual aesthetic.

Starting in their second year of the program, MFA candidates direct two full-length productions each academic year (one in the fall and one in the spring) in the Allen Bales, a 149 seat, thrust stage theatre. First year candidates typically serve as the assistant director to faculty and guests directors.

MFA candidates also teach undergraduate survey theatre classes, the use of theatre in different classroom settings, as well as develop and facilitate workshops based on their own areas of interest and expertise. Each MFA graduates with at least four semesters of college teaching experience.

About the Program Director

Annie G. Levy, Assistant Professor; Director of MFA Directing

Annie G. Levy is a theatre maker whose work often involves modern mythology, historical turning points and scientific breakthroughs. Current projects include TREE ARMY: The CCC Project, The Higgs Boson Project and An Inconvenient Poop. Recent New York credits include City Center, Dixon Place, HERE, The New Ohio Theatre, Theatre at the Tank, Access Theatre, Figment Festival, and The Green Building. Annie is a founding member of World Wide Lab, an international theatre laboratory, in residency at the Irondale Center in Brooklyn (2012 & 2013), Teatro Due in Rome (2014), and Syros Institute on the Greek Island of Syros (2015). Other international credits include, The Assembly Rooms (Edinburgh, Scotland), Discoteca di Storia (Rome, Italy) and Acadia University (Nova Scotia, Canada).

Annie has received a FAIR assistantship at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a residency at Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, was the 2012 Paul Artist Resident at Indiana University, Bloomington and was a 2010 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Uptown/Downtown Artist. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab and an associate member of SDC.

She earned her BA at Columbia University, her MFA at Sarah Lawrence College and her MA in cognitive studies in education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

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 aglevy1@ua.edu or call 205.348.2116.

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

Please consult your advisor on available courses.

Curriculum

Core Coursework

- Graduate Directing Seminar (six semesters)
- Theatre History (two semesters)
- Script Analysis (one semester)

Design Electives

- Period Decor
- History of Costume for the Stage
- Lighting Design I
- Scene Design I
- Sound Techniques for Theatre

Literature & Criticism Electives

- Greek & Roman Theatre
- Elizabethan, Jacobean and Carolinian Theatre
- Dramatic Theory & Criticism
- American Feminist Theatre
- Contemporary Theatre Seminar

Additional Electives

- Period Acting Styles
- Theatre Management
- Arts Administration

Master of Fine Arts—Directing

Application Instructions

To apply, please visit: <http://graduate.ua.edu/prospects/application/>

Statement of Purpose

Please include your answers to the following questions. You should structure your answers here however you see fit, but make sure you are answering all of the questions listed.

Describe your background in theatre. How did it lead you to directing? (two paragraphs)

Describe the work you make now as a director and/or the work that you aspire to make as a director. (one paragraph)

Why the MFA Directing Program at UA? (three to five sentences)

What is an area of theatre that you feel you could design and lead a 90-minute workshop on for undergraduate theatre students? Topics could be a particular artist, a performance technique, a play or any topic that you are passionate about and in which you feel you are proficient. Please briefly describe the workshop. This is not meant to be hypothetical – please share an aspect of the field where you already have some experience. (five sentences).

What are five plays that you would like to direct RIGHT NOW. Why these plays? Why right now? (ten sentences)

Portfolio

Applicants should include visual documentation of their work as a director. The portfolio should include video clips, photographs and any other documentation that the applicant feels best represents their work. The format should be a directing reel, uploaded to an online platform, such as youtube or vimeo.

Applicants should provide a link to their reel on the application where it asks for a portfolio.

An invitation to interview will be sent out after a review of the first round of materials.