

Master of Fine Arts—Stage Management

About the MFA in Stage Management

The MFA stage management program at the University of Alabama is a production – oriented three year intensive that focuses on providing a diversity of management experience to candidates as well as ongoing mentorship and extensive teaching opportunities in an academic environment. The primary focus of the program is hands-on experience: Each year, the MFA stage management candidate works on two full productions in our 300-seat theatre. For this aspect of the program, candidates interact with faculty, staff graduate students and both faculty and guest directors. Stage management MFA candidates mentor our undergraduate stage managers in two ways. Through directly supervising the undergraduate assistant stage managers and overseeing the undergraduates as they fulfill the role of stage manager on either our main stage or our 149– seat studio theatre.

For their course work, candidates will take graduate classes in technical theatre and design in order to further their knowledge in all areas of production. Candidates must also take classes in arts management and through the communications department in order to complete their degree. MFA candidates teach undergraduate theatre classes and assist in undergraduate stage management classes.

About the Program Director

Annie G. Levy, Assistant Professor

Annie G. Levy is a theatre maker whose work often revolves around modern mythology, historical turning points and scientific breakthroughs. Her 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, an associate member of SDC and is the co-founder of the literary series SWEET! Actors Reading Writers.

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, where her research focused on the integration of theatre and STEM subjects with college aged populations.

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

- Theatre History (two semesters)
- Script Analysis (one semester)

Design Electives

- History of Stage Design
- Period Decor
- Scene Design I & II
- Props Construction
- History of Costume Design
- Costume Design I & II
- Lighting Design I & II
- Sound Techniques for Theatre

Arts Management Electives

- Board Relations & Strategic Planning
- Business & Legal Issues
- Event Management
- Financial Management
- Fundraising and Development
- Leadership in the Arts
- Marketing the Arts
- Public Policy and Advocacy
- Theatre Management

Technical Theatre Electives

- Technical Direction
- Drafting for Theatre
- Computer Graphics for Theatre
- Drawing and Rendering
- Advanced Theatre Technology

Communication Electives

- Conflict and Negotiation
- Group Leadership
- Intercultural Communication
- Communication & Gender
- Tech, Culture & Human Communications

**Master of Fine Arts—Stage Management
Application Instructions**

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

Statement of Purpose

In three (3) pages, 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 stage management?
- Describe a situation where you, as a stage manager, had to solve a crisis. How did you solve it?
- How do you approach training your assistant stage managers?
- How do you see the role of the SM team in the rehearsal room and during the run?
- How do you deal with strong personalities in rehearsal and performance?
- In what areas of stage management do you feel more comfortable?
- What areas of stage management are challenging for you?

Portfolio

Upload the contents of a prompt book from a full-length production where you served as the stage manager. The production can be a play or musical, but it must be a full-length, not a one-act. Include all documentation and paper work as well as production photos. Candidates should also create and submit a summary of the rehearsal process and the production's run, which will serve as a guide to the review of the prompt book.

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