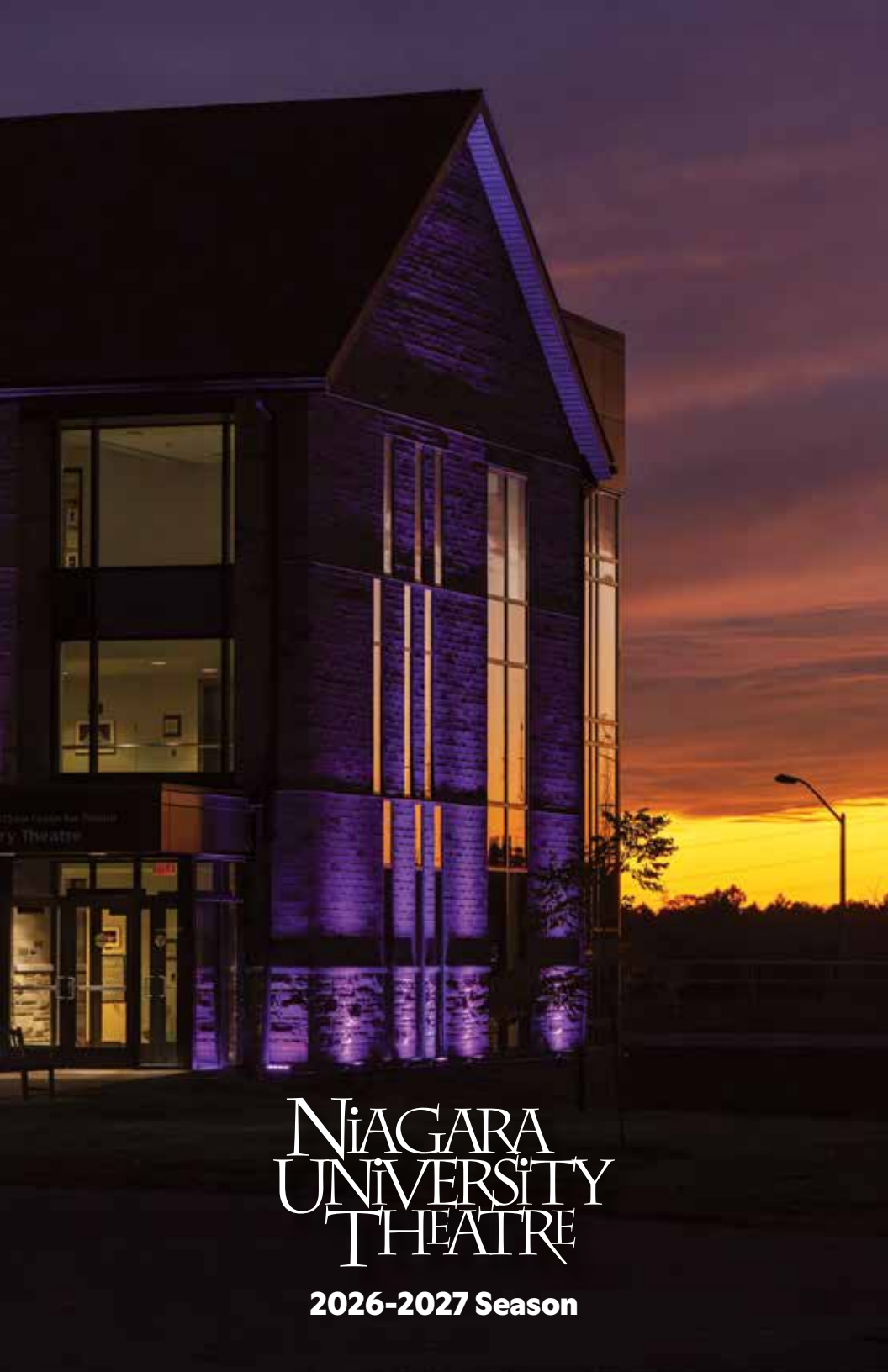




Jeffrey Gordon Box Theatre
Jeffrey Theatre

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

2026-2027 Season

Welcome to the NU Theatre 2026-2027 production season. We're glad you're back, and ready to enjoy the artistry of our dedicated and talented students, faculty, and guest collaborators.

Often, in one of our seasons, we offer material that illuminates something specific about our society that prompts you to consider the issue. And that's one of the great properties of theatre, to provide a platform for reflection. But the world seems a fragile place right now, and if you're like me, you probably already spend a good deal of time considering the now, as well as the future.

And while some of this season's shows can touch on themes that may resonate, it feels like we landed on shows that, at the end of the day, will leave you smiling, or laughing, or generally feeling happy about having participated. Good theatre transports us to another time and place and, for the space of a couple of hours, allows us to leave our cares behind.

This season will do just that. Please join us as a trio of clowns take a stab at Shakespeare, a much-beloved twosome navigates their friendship over the course of a year, gifted dancers expressively interpret literature, exuberant student directors engage in their craft for the first time, an immortal being traverses both time and self, two friends confront the challenges of the wasteland, and six young people just get together for a spell.

Let's have some fun!

Steve Braddock
Artistic Director, NU Theatre

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(abridged)(revised)(again) October 15-18

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD November 5-8

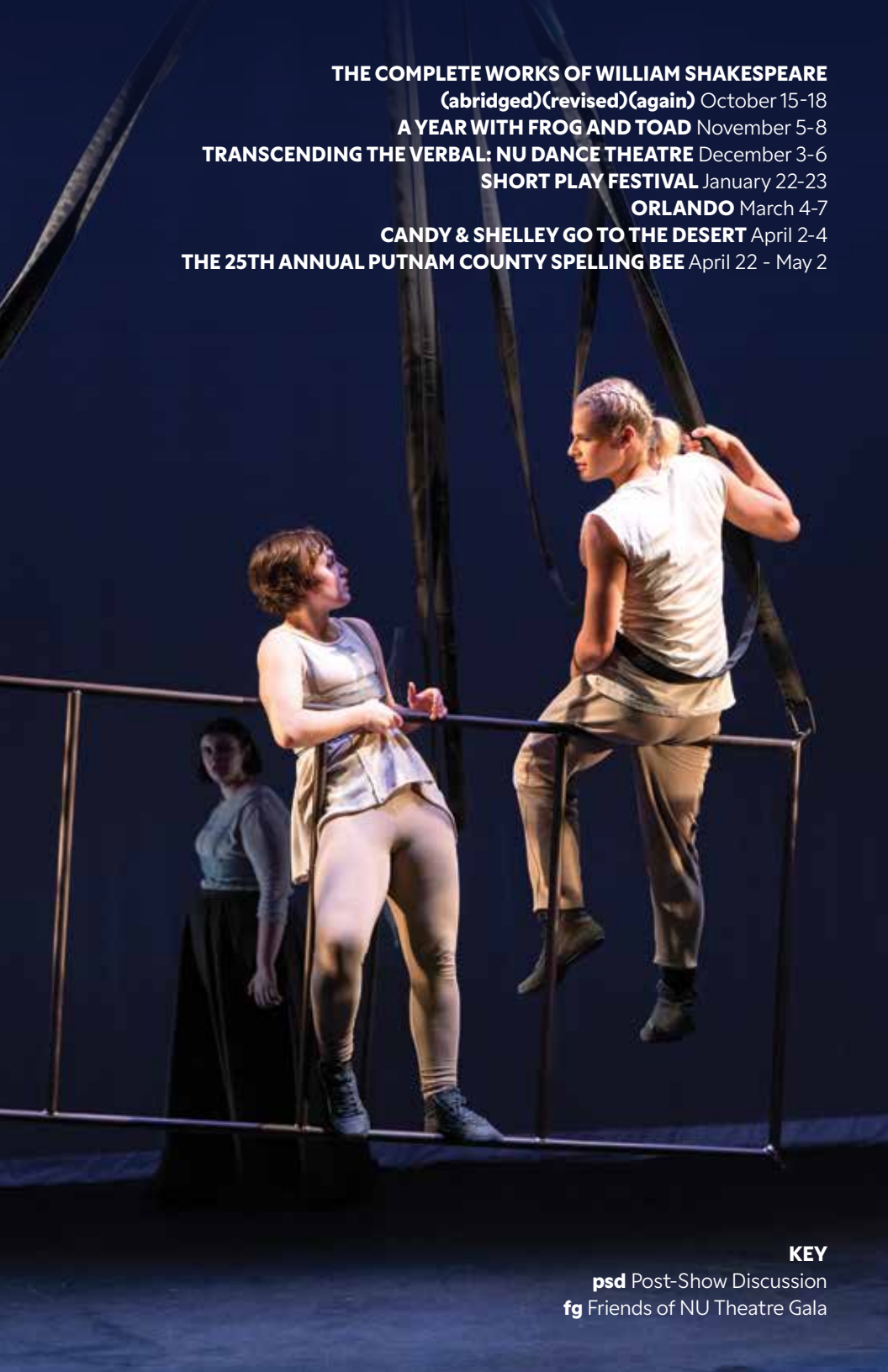
TRANSCENDING THE VERBAL: NU DANCE THEATRE December 3-6

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL January 22-23

ORLANDO March 4-7

CANDY & SHELLEY GO TO THE DESERT April 2-4

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE April 22 - May 2



KEY

psd Post-Show Discussion

fg Friends of NU Theatre Gala

October 15-18

Thursday October 15 7 p.m.

Friday October 16 7:30 p.m.

Saturday October 17 2 p.m.

Saturday October 17 7:30 p.m.

Sunday October 18 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Directed by Steve Braddock

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)(revised)(again)

**by Adam Long, Daniel Singer,
and Jess Winfield**

Caution! This play is a warp-speed steeplechase that attempts to condense ALL 37 of Shakespeare's beloved plays into one 97-minute performance!

Ambitious? Foolhardy? Insane? ... Absolutely!

Hilarious, unconventional, more than a little outrageous? ... You better believe it!

"If you like Shakespeare, you'll like this show. If you hate Shakespeare, you'll love this show!" -The Today Show

The Complete Works contains mature content and themes, including adult humor and innuendo.

Originally produced by Reduced Shakespeare Company



November 5-8

Thursday November 5 7 p.m.

Friday November 6 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 7 2 p.m.

Saturday November 7 7:30 p.m.

Sunday November 8 2 p.m. psd

\$25 General Admission

\$20 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Directed by Dr. Robyn Lee

Music Direction by Dr. Bridget Moriarty

Choreography by Terri Filips Vaughan

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Music by Robert Reale | Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale

Based on the books by Arnold Lobel

A not-to-be-missed family event!

The Tony Award nominated Broadway hit, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, based on the well-loved books, follows two great friends – the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad – through four fun-filled seasons of planting gardens, swimming, raking leaves, sledding and learning life lessons along the way. Come watch as the two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special.

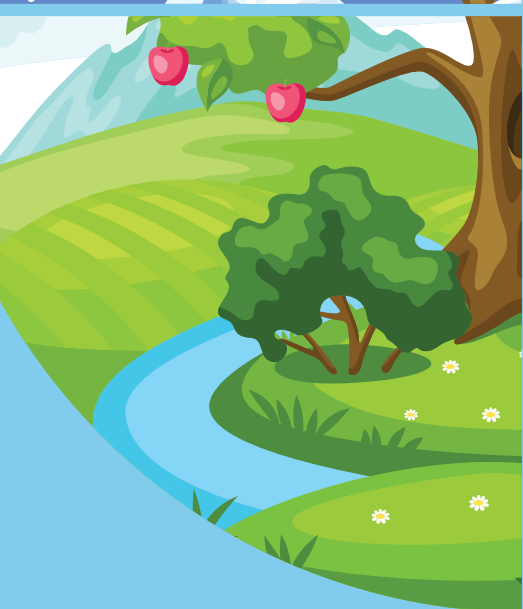
World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Originally presented on Broadway by

Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner, Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A Year With Frog and Toad Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com



December 3-6

Thursday December 3 7 p.m.

Friday December 4 7:30 p.m.

Saturday December 5 2 p.m.

Saturday December 5 7:30 p.m.

Sunday December 6 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Choreographed by
NU Theatre Dance Faculty

TRANSCENDING THE VERBAL: NU DANCE THEATRE

Vibrant stories, gloriously freed from the written word, in an assortment of choreographic styles, provide an opportunity to discover and joyfully express the human condition. Using movement as a springboard from the page to the stage, Transcending the Verbal celebrates the challenges and complications, limitations and liberties inherent in our society, articulated in the magnificent language of dance.

Don't miss this exploration of the beautifully physical nature of storytelling.



JANUARY 22-23

Friday January 22 7:30 p.m.

Saturday January 23 2 p.m.

Saturday January 3 7:30 p.m.

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

Life in ten-minute fragments. Like TikTok without video filters.

Comedies, dramas and everything in between – a delightful assortment of short stories. If one is not to your taste, you only have to wait 10 minutes until the next one.

Some of the plays contain adult situations and language.



MARCH 4-7

Thursday March 4 7 p.m.
Friday March 5 7:30 p.m.
Saturday March 6 2 p.m.
Saturday March 6 7:30 p.m.
Sunday March 7 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission
\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)
\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Directed by Dr. David Peterson

ORLANDO

By Sarah Ruhl
Adapted from the book by Virginia Woolf

Spanning three centuries, *Orlando* chronicles the boisterous adventures of a young nobleman in Queen Elizabeth's court who awakens in the middle of his life to discover he is now a she – and immortal to boot. Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's novel is a wild, fantastical trip through space, time and gender.

***Orlando* contains adult themes, sensuality, and gender fluidity.**

Orlando (Ruhl) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French
www.concordtheatricals.com



April 2-4

Friday April 2 7:30 p.m.
Saturday April 3 2 p.m. psd
Saturday April 3 7:30 p.m.
Sunday April 4 2 p.m.

\$10 All tickets.
Proceeds to benefit the NU Players Club

All Student-Produced

CANDY & SHELLEY GO TO THE DESERT

By Paula Cizmar

Heading west in search of romance and adventure, Candy and Shelley suddenly find themselves stranded with an overheated car in a “graveyard of lizards.” Alone under the blazing sun, with no recourse except to wait for another car to come along, the two companions navigate a relationship landscape both absurd and volatile. Will their friendship withstand the experience?

Content Warning: *Candy & Shelley Go to the Desert* contains mature language and sexual content.

Candy & Shelley Go to the Desert is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com



APRIL 22 – MAY 2

Thursday April 22 7 p.m.
Friday April 23 7:30 p.m.
Saturday April 24 2 p.m.
Saturday April 24 7:30 p.m.
Sunday April 25 2 p.m. psd
Thursday April 29 7 p.m.
Friday April 30 7:30 p.m.
Saturday May 1 4 p.m. fg
Sunday May 2 2 p.m.

\$25 General Admission

\$20 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Directed by Steve Braddock

Choreographed by Terri Vaughan | Music Direction by Dr. Bridget Moriarty

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin | Conceived by Rachel Sheinkin

Additional material by Jay Reiss | Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, and recently revived in New York, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, is the hilarious tale of six prepubescent, misfit contestants, vying for the championship of a lifetime, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves.

Content warning: Spelling Bee includes mild language, sexually suggestive humor, and references to sensitive topics like family issues and anxiety. Parental discretion is advised for younger audiences.

Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com



DIRECTIONS AND MAP



The Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre in Clet Hall

From Buffalo, follow the New York State Thruway across Grand Island. Continue on I-190 to Exit 24, Witmer Road. Turn left (aka Route 31). At first traffic light, turn right.

At first stop sign (Hyde Park), turn right. Go through the first traffic light (Niagara gorge will be on your left; campus will be on your right). Turn right just before NY Power Authority. Park on right in Butler parking lot. Clet Hall is the first building on the right on Vincentian Drive.

If needed, use the circular drop-off driveway that leads directly to the lobby.



Elizabeth Ann Clune

THREE WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Online we offer one of the lowest service fees online. To purchase tickets, select seat locations, and print tickets, simply go to: <http://theatre.niagara.edu/>.

Ticket packages make it simpler, you only need to input your personal information one time. Also, your preferred seat locations can be assigned to all ticket purchases (or the closest seats available). Commit to six productions (all but *Candy & Shelley Go To The Desert*) with a season subscription and earn a 10 percent discount.

Multiple productions in one transaction. Order two productions or more and only input your personal information one time.

Visit our box office in-person in the lobby of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall (Monday-Friday) 12:30-4:30 p.m. and one hour prior to curtain.

Call or email us at 716.286.8685 or boxoffice@niagara.edu. Voicemail messages and emails are returned as soon as possible.

Please be prompt. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of theatre management.

NU students with a current undergraduate NU ID will gain student access to one performance of each theatre production (with the exception of *Candy & Shelley Go To The Desert* and the summer performances). Tickets may not be used for other students or patrons. At the time of reservation, the NU ID will be swiped for verification and eligibility, then the ticket will be held in WILL CALL for pick-up one hour to 15 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets not picked up within 10 minutes of the curtain will be made available to waiting patrons. If you would like to see a production more than once, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

Persons with disabilities have full accessibility with the lobby elevator and circular driveway drop off. The front row is held for wheelchair patrons and their companions until the rest of the seats are sold, so please make your reservations sooner than later.

Ticket refunds are not allowed; however, exchanges prior to a performance are allowed whenever seats are available.

Student rush policy for any non-NU student, 21 or younger, with an ID, may be admitted free of charge when seats are available (with the exception of *Candy & Shelley Go To The Desert*). Such tickets will be distributed five minutes prior to curtain. If you would like to guarantee a ticket, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

Editor-in-Chief Steven Braddock

Graphic Designer Sue Karaszewski

Contributing Photographers Mark Duggan, Dede Hatch, Brian Rock, and David Peterson (NURT photo)



Membership Levels

Your donation is 100 percent tax deductible.

- ☐ Archangel \$1,000
- ☐ Angel \$750
- ☐ Producer \$500
- ☐ Co-Producer \$250
- ☐ Backer \$200
- ☐ Director \$150
- ☐ Assistant Director \$100
- ☐ Stage Manager \$75
- ☐ Production Assistant \$50
- ☐ Rising Star \$25
..... (29 years old and younger)

- ☐ Annual Friends of NU Theatre Gala
(Patron) \$175

A special evening of great theatre, fine food, auctions and fabulous Friends to support the NU Theatre program. For more information, please call 716.286.8483.

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Niagara University Theatre**

To pay by credit card, please visit **friendsofnutheatre.ejoinme.org/membership**

MEMBER INFORMATION:

☐ New member ☐ Renewal Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Area code and phone number _____

Email _____

NU AFFILIATION:

Alumni – Grad Year _____

Family – Name _____

Grad Year _____

For further information, call 716.286.8483.
Mail to: Friends of Niagara University Theatre,
P.O. Box 1851, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-1851

SUMMER



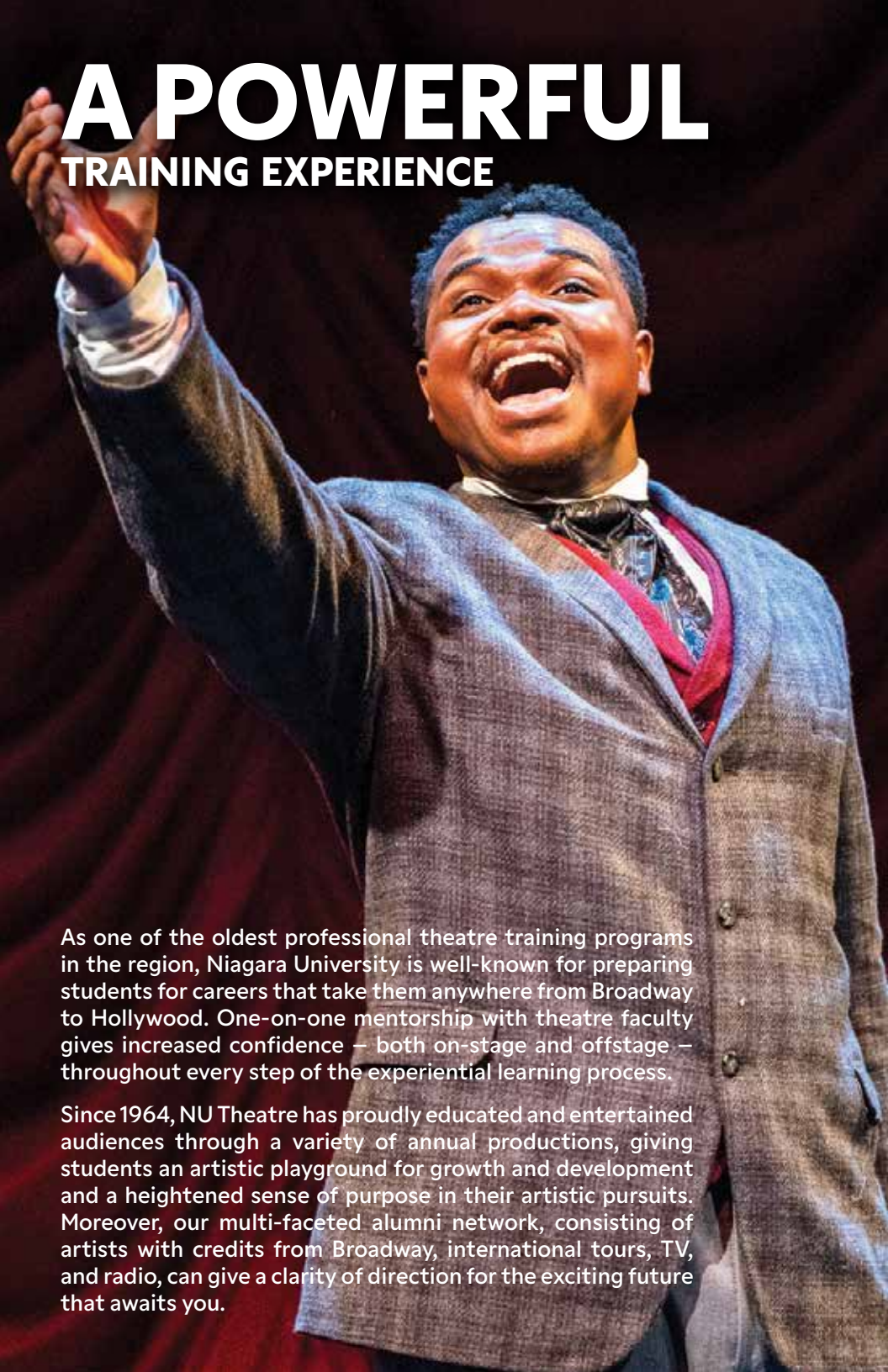
N.U.R.T.

A rotating 45-minute repertoire of children’s stories is performed for free during the months of July and August:

- On tour to daycare centers and summer camps
- On stage at the Leary Theatre in Clet Hall, Thursdays in July and August. For specific dates, please see our webpage: <https://theatre.niagara.edu/nurt/>

Scan for NURT dates and info!



A man with short dark hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a red vest, and a patterned bow tie, is shown from the chest up. He has his mouth wide open in a shout or cheer, and his right arm is raised high with his hand open. The background is dark and out of focus.

A POWERFUL TRAINING EXPERIENCE

As one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, Niagara University is well-known for preparing students for careers that take them anywhere from Broadway to Hollywood. One-on-one mentorship with theatre faculty gives increased confidence – both on-stage and offstage – throughout every step of the experiential learning process.

Since 1964, NU Theatre has proudly educated and entertained audiences through a variety of annual productions, giving students an artistic playground for growth and development and a heightened sense of purpose in their artistic pursuits. Moreover, our multi-faceted alumni network, consisting of artists with credits from Broadway, international tours, TV, and radio, can give a clarity of direction for the exciting future that awaits you.

AUDITIONS *and* INTERVIEWS



For prospective and transfer students seeking entry into any of our BFA programs, applicants are required to attend one of our dates, typically held each Spring, to complete either an audition or an interview for their respective programs.

BA applicants are not required to audition for admittance into the program, but are for scholarship consideration.

Performance BFA Applicant Requirements

1. **Monologue:** One-minute monologue of your choice from a play, prepared and memorized. Not to exceed two minutes.

2. **Vocal:** 60-90 seconds of a song, preferably from a musical, memorized and performed with musical accompaniment. Pianist will be provided.

3. **Dance:** Participants will be taught a short dance combination.

Design and Production BFA Applicant Requirements

Each applicant for the design and production program will meet with the design faculty for 30 minutes to present a prepared portfolio. Additionally, applicants should be prepared to discuss their theatre experience, career aspirations, and expectations at NU. The portfolio should include a maximum of 15 samples that primarily reflect the applicant's technical theatre production experience.

Theatre Specialization BFA Applicant Requirements

Applicants for the theatre specialization programs must complete an interview with faculty members from the department of theatre and fine arts. Due to the varying demands of each emphasis (directing, dramaturgy, and playwriting), applicants will have the option to audition and/or present a portfolio of his/her work.

For more information, please visit us at www.niagara.edu/theatre.



P.O. Box 1913
Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-1913

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Scan for
more information**