

K-State Theatre Directing Mentorship Program

Are you ready to take creative ownership, lead a team of artists, and bring a powerful story to life?

The **Directing Mentorship Program** at K-State Theatre gives senior theatre majors the opportunity to direct a fully produced show as part of the official season. With faculty mentorship at every stage, this program invites bold artistic vision, thoughtful risk-taking, and creative exploration within a safe and collaborative environment.

Directing is never a solo act—it's a dynamic, team-driven process. This program encourages student directors to think holistically:

- How will your vision align with student or faculty designers?
- How will casting—particularly with respect to inclusion, ensemble storytelling, and the available acting pool—shape your approach?

This is your opportunity to lead with intention, center community, and bring to life a production that reflects your voice and values.

Overview & Eligibility

This program is open to **senior K-State Theatre majors** who are passionate about directing and committed to collaboration and artistic leadership.

Applicants must:

- Be in good academic standing
 - Have completed (or be currently enrolled in) foundational theatre coursework
 - Demonstrate strong communication, time management, and collaboration skills
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Student Expectations & Requirements

To be considered for the program, applicants must:

- Maintain a **minimum GPA of 3.0**
- Actively participate in K-State Theatre service activities
(*e.g., KSTO, Ebony Theatre, KSTO Day, Theatre Student for a Day*)
- Show reliability, initiative, and a collaborative spirit across all aspects of the process

Purpose & Context

The Directing Mentorship Program serves as a **launchpad for emerging directors**, offering a bridge between classroom learning and fully realized production.

Student directors will:

- Participate in all phases of production—from script analysis to final performance
- Lead a rehearsal space grounded in inclusion, consent, empathy, and self-care
- Balance artistic leadership with collaborative engagement

Note: Not all proposals will be selected for a Chapman Season slot.

Faculty will assess each proposal based on:

- Design and collaboration opportunities
- Production feasibility
- Alignment with the season's goals
- Potential student learning outcomes

All applicants follow the same submission process, regardless of whether the project is ultimately selected for a mainstage or studio production.

Directing with a Spirit of Collaboration

At K-State Theatre, directing means leading with **care, creativity, and clarity**. Directors are expected to:

- Foster a positive, inclusive, and safe rehearsal environment
- Collaborate respectfully with actors, mentors, and design/tech teams
- Align their work with K-State Theatre's educational values

Design Staffing:

Each director will be assigned a **faculty designer**, a **mentored student designer**, or both—determined by the Design/Tech faculty.

Directors may not independently recruit their design team. If staffing is limited, faculty will determine appropriate adjustments to ensure project support.

Application Process

Step 1: Faculty Meeting

Before submitting your application, meet with a theatre faculty member to:

- Express your interest in directing
- Discuss possible play selections
- Explore how your project fits within the program's resources and casting pool

Step 2: Application Form

Applicant Information

- Name: _____
- Email: _____
- Expected Graduation Date: _____

Coursework Verification

(List semester/year completed or institution if transferred)

- THTRE 171: Fundamentals of Acting _____
- THTRE 280: Script Analysis _____
- THTRE 368: Fundamentals of Tech _____
- THTRE 369: Fundamentals of Design _____
- THTRE 565: Directing _____
- Additional Relevant Course 1: _____
- Additional Relevant Course 2: _____
- Assistant Director Credit (Production & Semester): _____

Extracurricular Artistic Experience (non-K-State)

1. _____
2. _____

Step 3: Proposal Presentation

Present a **visual proposal** (e.g., PowerPoint, Prezi, Canva) to the Acting/Directing Faculty. Your presentation should demonstrate:

- Artistic clarity and originality
- Practical, well-thought-out planning
- Readiness to lead a collaborative creative process

Production Parameters

Your proposed play must meet the following criteria:

- **Contemporary play** (written within the last 50 years)
 - Cast size **no larger than 6 actors**
 - **Realistic budget** and resource requirements
 - No musicals or works requiring elaborate special effects
 - Final script selection is subject to **faculty approval**
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Proposal Questions

Include written and visual responses to the following questions in your proposal:

1. What play are you proposing, and who is the playwright?
2. Why this play, and why now?
3. What excites you—visually, emotionally, or intellectually—about directing this piece?
4. How would you approach casting with regard to inclusion, ensemble storytelling, and the available acting pool at K-State?
5. How will you collaborate with your faculty mentor, actors, and design/tech team?
6. What will your rehearsal room feel like?
7. Are there any scheduling conflicts or major commitments that might affect your availability?
8. How do you envision scenic, lighting, costume, and sound design supporting your vision?
What design opportunities do you see for your collaborators?

If the faculty believe your proposed play does not fit the educational goals and needs of the department at this time, what alternative play do you propose? _____

If the faculty believe your proposed venue does not fit the educational goals and needs of the department at this time, what alternative venue do you propose? _____

This is your moment.

Step into artistic leadership.
Inspire your peers.
Shape the stories we tell at K-State Theatre.

We can't wait to see your vision.
Lead boldly. Dream collaboratively.