

Faculty profiles cont'd



Gyllian Raby teaches acting, devising, directing, dramaturgy, scriptwriting and script analysis.

I do theatre because it ignites the world, because it enables me to get a grasp on people and all manner of mysteries.

Theatre amalgamates so many different kinds of knowing. It's like Archimedes' lever: with a very small purchase, we can move the world.



Virginia Reh teaches acting and directing.

I work in theatre to explore the diversity and wonder of human behaviour. I work in theatre to communicate — to share ideas, tell stories, imagine possibilities and

create a dialogue — with artists and audiences. As an actor, I can inhabit other characters. As a director, I am privileged to guide and be one of a team of dedicated theatre makers. I work in theatre to play!



David Vivian teaches theatrical design, production and stagecraft.

As a scenographer, I bring creative and technical languages of expression to a performative moment. The exploration of the

architecture of space, the visual arts and music — means by which we contract or expand time in shifting planes real and virtual — generate new and innovative contexts for artists and audiences to inquire, to collaborate, and to invest original meaning into our lives. I do theatre because it is a moment and a place where the brilliant possibilities of the world are revealed and negotiated.



Danielle Wilson teaches acting and voice.

I do theatre because I believe it has knowledge and skills that the world needs to face the increased mediatization of our society and decreased face-to-face contact. It

reflects and celebrates the liveness of the moment, its fragility and mutability. The theatre makes me feel alive and I want to share this sense of aliveness with others.

forward thinking.
forward moving.

In 2015, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts will be relocating 500 students, faculty and staff to brand new facilities in the downtown core of St. Catharines. A \$30.2-million project designed by Diamond + Schmitt Architects of Toronto, a repurposed 19th-century textile mill and component buildings will provide 95,000 square feet of instructional, research and production space for our degree programs in Dramatic Arts, Music, Visual Arts and our Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture.

New facilities mean exceptional opportunities for future students: art, design and digital studios; a learning and computer commons; music practice and rehearsal rooms; lecture and seminar rooms; and a versatile stand-alone 235-seat theatre with production and workshop support including a costume department and carpentry shop. In combination with the new City of St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, where students will have access to the film theatre and recital hall, our goal is to build on the reputation of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

DART people,
DART spaces

In addition to full-time faculty, DART has a technical, production, and administrative staff of five, and employs numerous part-time faculty, many of whom are active theatre artists, technicians and production staff, arts workers, teachers, and graduate students in the Niagara Region and Toronto. The teaching, learning, technical and production, and creative work of the department takes place in classrooms, studios, shops and several theatres, including the 533-seat Sean O'Sullivan Theatre. Students frequently visit local schools and community locations as part of the department's teaching and learning of Drama in Education and Applied Theatre.

Performance
opportunities

DART students have numerous opportunities to perform as part of their coursework, and via extracurricular activities, including a number of student-led initiatives. Each year, the department presents two mainstage productions, held in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, that provide practical hands-on experience, stimulate intellectual and creative enquiry, and enrich the Niagara community.

2013–14
MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS:*Twelfth Night*
A comedy by William Shakespeare

Director: Gyllian Raby;
Co-Director and Vocal Coach: Danielle Wilson;
Set Designer: Nigel Scott;
Costume Designer: Kelly Wolf



Nov. 7, 8, and 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee: Nov. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Change is in the air – or perhaps it's love? Caught in the crosswinds, fools, lovers, and shipwrecked souls tip into their opposites. In Shakespeare's Illyria as one wise fool puts it, "nothing that is so, is so."

Jehanne of the Witches
by Sally Clark

Director: Virginia Reh;
Scenographer: David Vivian



Feb. 13, 14, and 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee: Feb. 14 at 1 p.m.

Black magic, illusion and the suppression of truth. Voices swirl as Joan of Arc and Gilles de Rais, the infamous Bluebeard, concoct a witches' brew of sexuality and the use – and abuse – of power.

Purchase tickets from the Centre For the Arts Box Office 905 688 5550 x3257.

TICKETS:

- \$18 adults
- \$15 seniors/students
- \$12 groups
- \$5 eyeGo

For more information about our mainstage productions, contact Marie Balsom, Communications 905 688 5550 x4765 | mbalsom@brocku.ca

DART in the
COMMUNITY

DART students have opportunities to apprentice in acting, administration, design, tech and production, publicity and other roles with the region's theatre and performance companies including:

- Theatre Beyond Words
- Essential Collective Theatre
- neXt Company Theatre
- Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects
- Suitcase in Point
- Carousel Players

Students also take on teaching roles in elementary and high schools, and work in summer camps. Additionally, students can gain valuable work experience through employment with the Centre for the Arts at Brock University.

Department of
DRAMATIC ARTS

Brock University
Niagara Region
500 Glenridge Ave.
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1

If you would like more information about the department, or if you would like to visit us for a tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact

T: 905 688 5550 x5255

E: dramatic@brocku.ca

W: brocku.ca/dramaticarts

f facebook.com/DramaticArtsAtBrockUniversity

The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts at Brock University offers students a broad education combining research, practice and creative development.

Inquiries

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Grad profile
Julia Course

Julia Course, Our Beters, Shaw Festival 2013. Photo by David Cooper

I graduated from Brock in 2005 with an honours BA in Dramatic Arts and a minor in English Literature. I took a variety of classes in DART, from dramatic literature and theatre history to stagecraft and acting. This solid foundation afforded me the opportunity to pursue a master's degree in dramatic literature and theory at the University of Guelph, and training in the acting program at The National Theatre School of Canada (NTS).

Since graduating from NTS in 2009, I have worked as an actor in Toronto and Montréal, and I have spent four seasons in the ensemble at the Shaw Festival. My academic studies at Brock and Guelph have greatly enriched and informed my work as an actor. While working at Shaw, in a mandate that focuses largely on the turn of the century, a facility for research has certainly come in handy! From early character development to deconstructing a play text before rehearsals begin, my work often starts in a library, examining the world of the play from a historical and social context.

The time I spent at Brock greatly shaped the way I approach acting, and the person I have become today.

All about DART

Do you love drama and the performing arts? Are you thinking about studying drama at the university level? We hope you will consider studying with us at Brock University in the Department of Dramatic Arts (or, as we like to call it, DART). This newsletter will introduce you to who we are and what we do. If you'd like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact us!

The DART
Invitational

The Invitational is an important and unique part of the application process to our department. Students who receive a conditional offer of admission will be invited to participate in a day-long Invitational event at the department located on the St. Catharines campus.

These workshops and theatre activities allow you to experience all four of our concentration areas, while enabling you to excel in your areas of strength and interest. During the day, you'll work in a group to devise a short, original piece of theatre, and meet and work with many of our faculty and staff, current students and recent graduates. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Final offers to our program are conditional upon successful completion of the DART Invitational. Invitationals take place on Saturdays in March, April or May. Detailed information about the day will be included in the offer of admission package.

Further information can be found at: brocku.ca/dramaticarts

Your first
year in DART

A first-year student takes four core courses in Dramatic Arts, which introduce the key areas of teaching and learning in the department, and two context courses in the University. Here's what recent students have to say about the courses at DART.

Introduction to Stagecraft, Production, and Design was by far my favourite first-year course. It covered costume design, where we learned the basics of hand and machine sewing; lighting and sound, where we learned about colour mixing and how it embellishes scenes; and a construction lab, where we learned about the different fasteners and joints used in construction and used power tools to construct our own stage flats. This course will help my classmates and me hit the ground running in our second year! ~ Kelsey Burcher

Introduction to Drama was the course that brought me to Brock, and it has been the course that helped me through Brock. It gave me a better appreciation of theatre as reflection of history, and gives me a strong introduction to the works of key playwrights such as Chekhov and Beckett. ~ Mark Harrigan

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BROCK OPEN HOUSE

Visit: discover.brocku.ca

FALL PREVIEW DAY
Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013

SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, March 2, 2014

Marilyn I. Walker
School of Fine &
Performing Arts

Brock University
Faculty of Humanities

Degree options

There are a number of ways of shaping your DART degree. All the department's programs emphasize "praxis" — the integration of theory and practice — teaching students to analyze, create, initiate, lead and collaborate. After completing first-year foundation courses, students may continue with a general Dramatic Arts degree, honours degree or a three-year pass degree. Most of our students opt to enter one of four concentrations:

The **Applied Theatre and Drama in Education** concentration focuses on drama outside traditional theatre spaces, including theatre in the community, in hospitals, in prisons and in educational settings. Students who choose this concentration often pursue careers as drama teachers or arts workers.

Performance concentration students develop the foundations of stage performance, while engaging in script analysis, critical and reflective writing and speaking and creative research, allowing them to develop as "actor creators," theatre artists who can create their own work.

Students in the **Production and Design** concentration develop a fundamental understanding of, and ability to apply, approaches to design and technology. They respond to dramatic texts and creative processes, engage with emerging and innovative technologies and study visual and spatial histories.

Theatre Praxis concentration students examine various relationships between performance theory and performance practice. Emphasis is placed on the ability to think, write and speak critically about the cultural, historical and material relations of theatre and performance.

Your first year in DART

(Continued from cover page)

Through the integration of drama with classroom practices, as well as the application of these outside of the classroom, **Drama in Education and Applied Theatre** I taught me the profound effect theatre can have on education. Theatre gives us a powerful perspective that teaches us to think, to question, and perhaps most importantly, to be empathetic. I consider this a strong foundation for my future studies in DART.

~ Sean McClelland

Introduction to Performance is the quintessential course for an actor's foundation in performance skills. It covers the basics of a wide range of performance techniques and theories, all the while strengthening the all-important inner awareness of the actor. This class had me push myself harder than any other, and the experience was, by far, the most rewarding.

~ Olivia Thornton-Nickerson

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Joe Norris



Professor Joe Norris came to Brock in 2009 having taught in universities in Canada and the United States. He brought with him Mirror Theatre, a theatre company made up of students, faculty, staff and community members interested in devising theatre that examines a variety of social issues. His award-winning book *Playbuilding as Qualitative Research: A Participatory Arts-based Approach* is based upon his work with Mirror Theatre.

Norris teaches Drama in Education and Applied Theatre in DART. We asked him about his interest in theatre and performance, and here's what he had to say:

I do theatre because it's the way I think. Expository essays or lab reports as a student did little for me, but devising theatre collectively with others expands the way I witness, interpret, and act in the world. I attempt to bring that type of adventure, method of asking questions, and call to action to my students, and the community at large, through forms of drama and applied theatre that work through participation and dialogue. I thank all cast members and audiences of Mirror Theatre in the past and future in joining me in this playful transformative endeavour.



After DART

A DART degree opens up many possible career avenues, in and out of the performing arts. You've already read the cover story about how Julia Course's acting career started at Brock. Here are a few more of our alumni explaining how DART paved their professional paths:



Since graduating in 2011, I completed an MA at the University of Toronto, started my own theatre company and collaborated with award-winning ensembles, including Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Canadian Stage and Crow's Theatre. The Praxis concentration taught me to balance theory and practice, and allowed me to experience for myself the intellectual and creative potential in this way of working.
~ Spencer Charles Smith, class of 2011



Thanks to the practical, resourceful and theoretical framework I gained in Drama in Education at DART, I became the international performer, director, education and touring manager, artistic consultant, specialized arts teacher and Toronto District School Board educator that I am today! The professors, students and atmosphere at Brock sparked my creativity and nurtured my confidence.
~ Brittany Knight, class of 1999



The encouraging professors and challenging practical courses in DART helped me realize my potential in technical theatre. My honours BA in Dramatic Arts along with the mentors that I met through Brock led me to work as production manager for Carousel Players, apprentice technical director at the Grand Theatre, and most recently, as properties coordinator at the Shaw Festival.
~ Anrita Petrarroia, class of 2007

Field trips and annual events

In DART, the learning takes place not just in the classroom and workshop space, but in professional theatres as well! Attending a wide variety of productions is an important part of the DART degree. Planned excursions for 2013-14 include:



Photo by David Cooper

Guys and Dolls, at the Shaw Festival. They call it the greatest of all American musicals, full of wise guys and chorus girls, gamblers and actresses, cops and bobby-soxers. The Shaw Festival is only a short drive away from the Brock campus in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Photo by Maude Chauvin

One, by Montréal-based, Iran-born Mani Soleymanlou — a powerful and funny one-man show that guides the audience through a novel immigrant experience of transition. *One* is presented by the Centre for the Arts at Brock University.



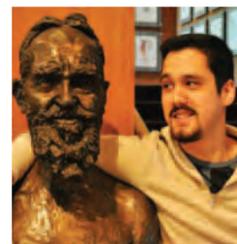
Photo by Simon Hayter

Winners and Losers, by Marcus Youssef and James Long. Marcus and James play a game where they name things and people — Pamela Anderson, microwave ovens, Goldman Sachs, their fathers — and debate whether each is a winner or a loser. This acclaimed experimental piece is playing at Canadian Stage in Toronto.

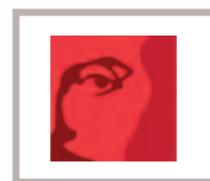


DART at the Shaw Festival

Brock's proximity to and strong relationship with the renowned Shaw Festival is a unique opportunity for our students. We offer a dedicated course on the **Text and Performance of Bernard Shaw**, co-taught annually by Shaw ensemble members and Brock faculty. In addition, upper year DART students have an opportunity for experiential learning as interns at the Shaw Festival.



DART student Kevin Chew and his new friend George Bernard Shaw during his 2013 summer internship at the Shaw Festival.



DART at the Stratford Festival

DART also maintains a strong relationship with the venerable Stratford Festival, one of the leading classical theatre ensembles in North America. We offer two studio courses annually at Stratford: **Shakespeare in Performance** and **Shakespeare: Voice and Text**. In addition to studio work, these courses include seeing and analyzing Stratford productions, studying texts, taking backstage tours and interviewing members of the ensemble.

Co-op and Concurrent Education

Co-op and Concurrent Education are two other exciting opportunities for DART students.

Co-op allows you to combine your academic degree with paid work in the cultural sector. Co-op students take a compressed study and work schedule, including spring and summer terms, and finish the degree in four years.

Brock is one of few universities in the province to offer a concurrent BA/BEEd program. Studying both in DART and in Brock's Faculty of Education over five years, students earn two undergraduate degrees, one in Dramatic Arts and the other in Education, and an Ontario teaching certification.

For Brock Co-op information, visit brocku.ca/co-op

For Brock Concurrent Education information, visit brocku.ca/education/futurestudents/concurrentteachered

Student awards and bursaries

There are numerous scholarship and other funding opportunities for Brock students. Please see brocku.ca/safa for more details.

Walker Cultural Leader Series

The Walker Cultural Leader series is another way in which students in the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts come face-to-face with leading arts professionals and educators. Two Walker Cultural Leaders will visit DART in 2013-14: **Patrice Baldwin**, a leading figure in Drama in Education based in the U.K. (October 2013); and **Jill Dolan**, professor of English, Theatre and Gender and Sexuality at Princeton University (February 2014). Both speakers will be offering public lectures. Visit brocku.ca/walker-cultural-leader-series

Faculty profiles



Natalie Alvarez teaches the theory, analysis and history of performance.

Theatre brings people face to face in the same space to feel, to think and to talk about urgent issues — it's a political act and increasingly radical in our media-saturated lives. It's also where we listen to those on the fringes of society — the outcasts, the disadvantaged, the oppressed — who are not often heard through the noise of our daily lives.



David Fancy teaches the theory, analysis and history of performance, and acting.

Theatre is a passionate pursuit for me because it invites intersections between art and theory, as well as mind and body. I love working with aspiring theatre artists and theoreticians because of their frequent desire for a more just and more beautiful world.



Karen Fricker teaches the theory, analysis and history of performance, and theatre criticism.

Theatre and performance have been a great interest since my early teens, but it was when I discovered criticism that I found my career path. Enjoying productions — and then working through what they're saying about the world we live in — is a great job. Teaching students to discover and celebrate their own critical potential is an even better job.



Glenys McQueen-Fuentes teaches acting and Drama in Education.

I love theatre because of its power to give voice, shock our senses, challenge our boundaries, take our breath, deepen our questions, extend our views, sharpen our awareness and empathy, incite to action — and does so face-to-face through the universal languages of sound, image and movement that cut across all borders, cultures, and obstacles.



Joe Norris teaches Drama in Education and Applied Theatre. (See Faculty Spotlight on page 2)