

Studying theater, dance, and performance opens your mind and sharpens your craft. You will see more in the space around you, with a heightened awareness of everything and everyone in it—including yourself. Alumni pursue careers as:

- Actors, choreographers, directors, and writers
- Software developers
- Attorneys
- Managers of arts institutions and nonprofits
- Physicians
- Professors

“ My TAPS education expanded my knowledge and appreciation of traditional theater and also challenged me to embrace more experimental and original work. Through theater, we create a mirror of the world as we see it and also an image of what we believe it can become. ”

Elizabeth Knarr, '16
Associate, Boston Consulting Group

“ Studying dance exposed me to a broad range of work, forcing me to rethink what I considered ‘dance’ and ‘performance.’ Faculty invited me to view choreography as research and to treat the studio as a laboratory, allowing me to integrate my work in the sciences with my passion to move. ”

Katherine Hawthorne, '10
Freelance dancer and choreographer

Theater and Performance Studies

**WHY DOES LIVE PERFORMANCE
CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN THE
DIGITAL AGE?**

**WHEN IS DANCING A
POLITICAL ACT?**

**HOW DOES THEATER REFLECT—
AND SHAPE—SOCIETY?**



FIND A FOCUS

Immerse yourself in the history of theater and dramatic literature while exploring the many forms performance takes in contemporary culture. Onstage or backstage, as well as in the seminar room with renowned scholars and artists, you will master interpretation and critique while gaining first-hand knowledge of every stage of the creative process. Choose one of three concentrations:

- Acting
- Theater Making
- Dance (minor)

Then build on your interests with courses like:

- *Beginning Improvising*
- *Revolutions in Theater*
- *Dance, History, and Conflict*
- *Dramatic Tensions: Theater and the Marketplace*
- *The Actor-Director Dialogue*
- *The Idea of Virtual Reality*

BECOME A SCHOLAR-ARTIST

Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS) lets you play the roles of scholar and artist at every stage of your education. Learning happens in the classroom and the studio—you will get hands-on experience in working performance venues like the student-run Nitory Theater. Through scholarly research and the refinement of your own techniques, you will become fully fluent in the languages of both performance and theory, ready to see the world in new ways and use art as a tool to change it.

MAKE YOUR VISION A REALITY

All TAPS majors complete a capstone project that represents significant, original work in their chosen area of theater or performance. You can choreograph a dance, write or direct a play, manage a theatrical production, act in a major role, or write a research essay—and leave Stanford with an original work of your own as a springboard for further studies, the professional world, or a career.

PICTURED: *Advanced Acting course*