



BRAYDEN

THEATRE

ABOUT MY MAJOR

As a Theater Performance major, I learned about the different acting styles and techniques that can be used in the rehearsal process to help boost your performance and tell stories more truthfully. People think that all we do is get on the stage and perform, but there are a lot of collaboration and communication skills that one builds in the process. We learn about the movement of the body and the different properties of voice, like how to produce different kinds of sounds. We take directing classes where we learn how to lead and direct a performance. With Theater for the Youth, there is a lot of lesson planning and facilitation which is centered around the youth, and communities. We then go into classes and have the classroom experience of working with students. This is different from student teaching as we can work with a teacher at any school or work at a local theater and conduct a camp for students.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I came in as a marketing management major. I knew there were those opportunities with the theater department and wanted to at least try out some theater activities. I did the 10-minute play festival and some other events. At the end of my freshman year, I talked to the professors in the department and spoke about my interest in the program but also my concerns regarding building a career out of it. The professors explained to me how the program would prepare students to find a job at the end of their academic journey. They reassured me and I loved the department. I love the people, so it just felt like the right fit.

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

We have Alpha Psi Omega, which is like an honors theater society that is very centered around volunteering. We have a multicultural theatrical society that holds awesome events that represent underrepresented populations. We have UNISTA, which is the UNI Student Theater Association. There is another organization called UNI Theatre Technicians that does fundraising to help pay for students studying design and production to be able to participate in the Unit Conference.

CAREERS

There is something like Cattle Call auditions called Updates. Graduating seniors can also submit their work and they have a lot of companies that look for people through them. You can talk to them about working for them and those can go from summer contracts to year-round contracts depending on what kind of jobs they are looking for. Some of my friends who went through them received calls from 8 to 10 companies. I plan on doing that and seeing what's out there. Shakespeare Companies are still heavily produced. I'm also looking at the Rose Theater in Omaha, for teaching artist positions. I know people who now work at the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, which is one of the best children's theater companies in the nation and I'm looking there. I got a job at a summer camp where I am going to be an athletic director and then I might apply somewhere in athletics. It gives you options, but it's also stressful because it gives you so many options.

INTERNSHIPS

We have something called practicum, which is kind of like an internship, where we work on theater. To graduate, you need to do a practicum. If you're a performer, you need three in which one can be performing in a role, but then the other two have to come from the tech or production side of theater. I managed "Heathers: The Musical " and learned how to manage a house, communicate with ushers, know what signs need to be up in the theater so people know where to go, help people with tickets, and things like that. If you are looking to go into design and production, you will be able to build a portfolio through these experiences or if you are going into performance, you're going to be able to build a book of audition monologues and things like that.