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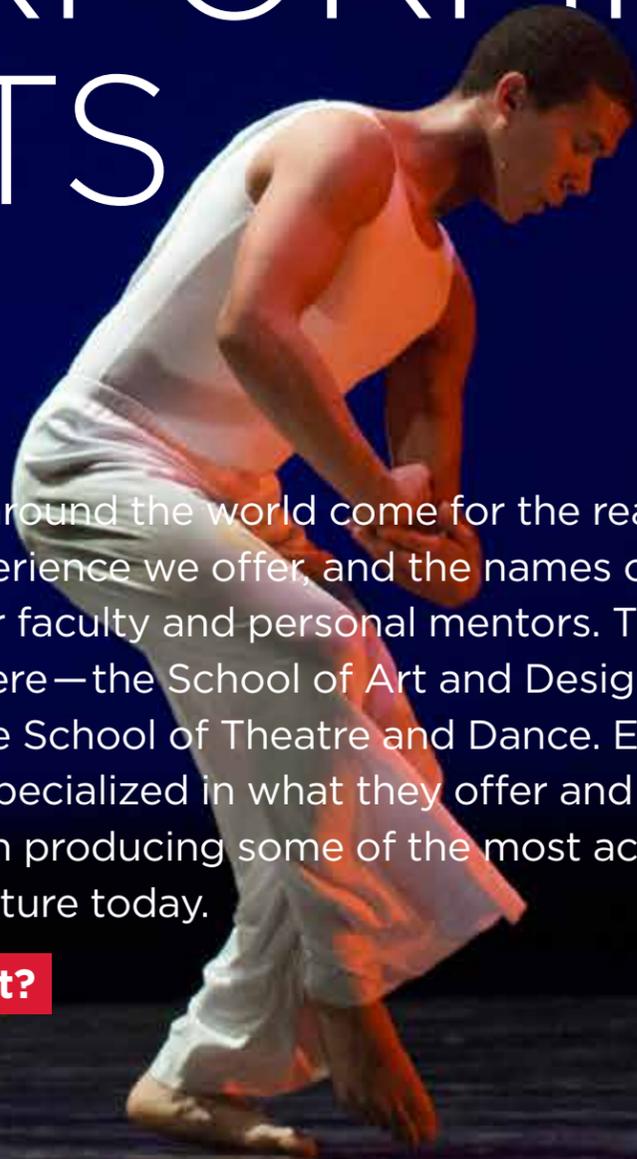
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**College of Visual and  
Performing Arts**

# WELL COOL MEE.



# NIU COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



Students from around the world come for the real and undeniable experience we offer, and the names of the artists that will be their faculty and personal mentors. There are three schools here—the School of Art and Design, the School of Music and the School of Theatre and Dance. Each award-winning. Each specialized in what they offer and diverse in how they teach. Each producing some of the most accomplished artists in our culture today.

**Will you be next?**



# MASTER THE WHOLE WORK.

Want your art to be vibrant, immersive and professional? Then the learning experience and environment you create in needs to be, too. That's the idea the College of Visual and Performing Arts is built on. Here, you'll focus equally on performance and professional practice — what we call mastering the whole work. You will reach your highest level of skill and creativity in whichever endeavor you choose. And you'll develop ways to put intention into your creativity, creating art that unmistakably showcases the value of what you do.





All artistry works from the inside out. It is a process of building and developing one layer at a time. It isn't magic when you see a massive group of musicians from around the world, who are meeting for the first time, improvise and harmonize together. There are universal fundamentals they're working from. Working with our accomplished faculty you will master the discipline and skills you need, regardless of your art, to create, collaborate, grow and achieve.

ENVISION.  
LEARN.  
CREATE.  
IMPROVE.  
REPEAT.

# HIGH-VALUE EDUCATION. INVALUABLE CREATIVE IMPACT. BY DESIGN.

MAKE  
ART AND  
MAKE IT  
COUNT.

The School of Art and Design gives you the opportunity to create one-on-one relationships with leaders in the arts.

Whether you want to become a professional in art or design, or you want to teach—picking the best college experience comes down to two things: cost and depth of programming. By both standards, we crush it.

Our Visual Communication program has earned its renown in the industry for decades, with graduates going on to successful careers at companies like Google, Pepsi, IBM, Lyft or Levi Strauss, and agencies like Leo Burnett, VSA Partners, 50,000feet or the IA Collaborative.

Our Animation and Video programs are world-class, and alumni from our Illustration program are doing cool things like working for The Onion, illustrating covers for Wonder Woman comics or creating concept art for games and movies. Our Data Visualization program just received a supercomputer from Intel that we share with our computer science program.

For the past several years, our program boasts a 100% job placement rate.



## CRAFT YOUR OWN PATH.

With 11 studios for students to choose, our range between design and fine arts is impressive. Our undergraduate programs provide rich foundations for futures in art history, ceramics, drawing, fiber (paper and textile making), illustration, metalwork, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, time arts (animation and video), and visual communication (graphic design)

One of the strengths of our programs is mentorship. Our professors truly care about their students and work with them one-on-one frequently. Within the structure of each degree and area, we craft a highly individualized education for each student's strengths..

Find more out about each on our website, at [niu.edu/art/](http://niu.edu/art/).

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

- B.A. Art
- B.S. Art
- B.S.Ed. Art and Design Education
- B.A. Art History
- Accelerated B.A./J.D.
- B.F.A in Studio, Design and Media Arts.



# TOP 20

printmaking program in the nation  
and top 125 overall fine arts program.  
—U.S. News and World Report

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- M.A. Art - Studio
- M.A. Art - Art History
- M.F.A. Art - Studio
- M.S. Art - Art and Design Education
- M.S. Art - Art and Design Education (online)
- Ph.D. - Art and Design Education

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATES OF STUDY

- Art History
- Museum Studies

Specialize further in a particular area of fine arts study, design and media, art and design education, or art history.

Here you'll find a comprehensive, immersive graduate program that will let you focus just about anywhere. Our facilities include dedicated studio and lab spaces, galleries, a 3-D fabrication lab, an animation green room and computer labs. You'll work alongside faculty who show their art in galleries around the world, who write for art education and history publications, and who lead respected arts organizations.

You'll also get exposure to artists and scholars who come to speak about issues facing the industry and the community. Plus, our location makes it easy for you to connect with others in the Chicago arts scene.



“WE TEACH HOW TO BE CRITICAL, CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE.”



**JESSICA LABATTE, M.F.A.**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Jessica Labatte's approach to both her own artistic work and style of teaching in our School of Art and Design blends the philosophical with the technical. Her photographic images explore concepts of autonomy, agency, and chance in contemporary material culture and photographic space. This not only gives her students a broadened perspective, it gives them a sense of what's possible as they embark on their own personal exploration of photography. Labatte's work has been featured in numerous publications and exhibitions, and has also earned her copious awards, grants and residencies throughout her career.



LEARN THROUGH THE MUSIC ITSELF.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# CREATIVITY. COLLABORATION. COMMUNITY.

Music must be experienced—performed or heard—to be appreciated. But when we experience it, we connect with it personally. We are stimulated physically, mentally and emotionally.

When we ask students, "Why music?" they talk about their love of the community it creates, how music is a language that connects people all over the world, and that it's a fundamental piece of their identities.

When asking them, "Why NIU?" they value the personalized attention and dedication to building transferable skills, that they are not a number, and the amount of support to grow, create, and achieve.

You are getting the best of everything in the School of Music. You will receive the same intense musical training of a music conservatory, but with the experiences and resources of a major university. Our location gives artists the proximity to Chicago and its creative music scene, while being in a great local community and keeping things affordable.

Best of all, you join a community of musicians where creativity and collaboration are central and your success is our focus!



# #1

## STEELBAND

In 1973, our Steelband program was the first ever established at a U.S. university.

# WORLD RENOWNED ARTISTS. ENGAGED MENTORS. PERSONALIZED LEARNING.

It's one thing to be able to say you studied under a world renowned artist. It's another to develop personal, artistic relationships with nationally and internationally recognized faculty, who are continuing to perform on the world music scene.



What makes our faculty unique is that they are the true embodiment of the mission and values at NIU.

At NIU, you have the opportunity to study jazz, performance, music education, steelpan, composition, recording arts, world music, and conducting.



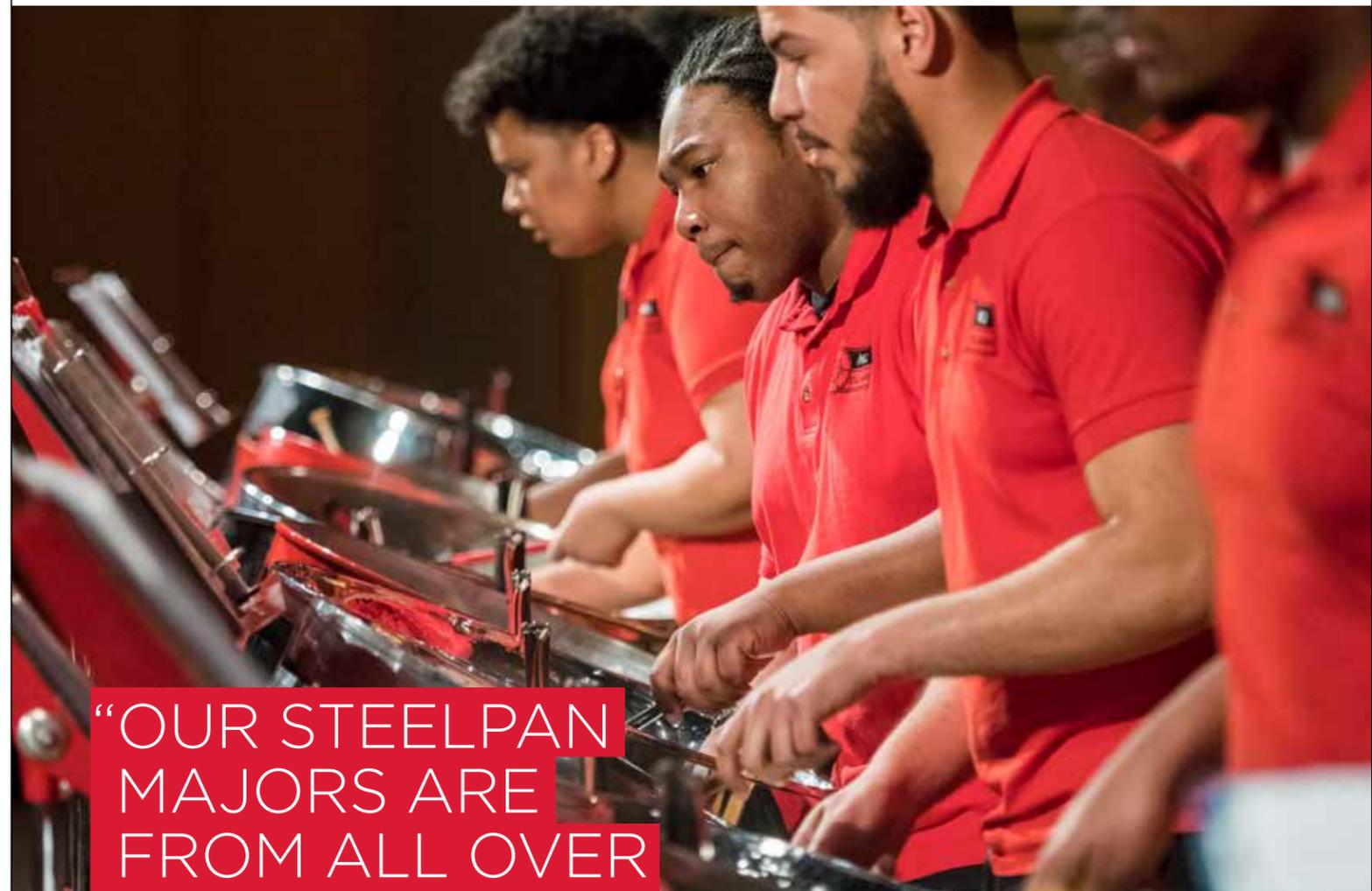
Students also benefit from being part of award-winning instrumental and vocal ensembles. We're talking choirs, orchestra, concert and marching bands, steelbands, new music, jazz, percussion, Javanese and Balinese gamelans, tabla and chamber music ensembles.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

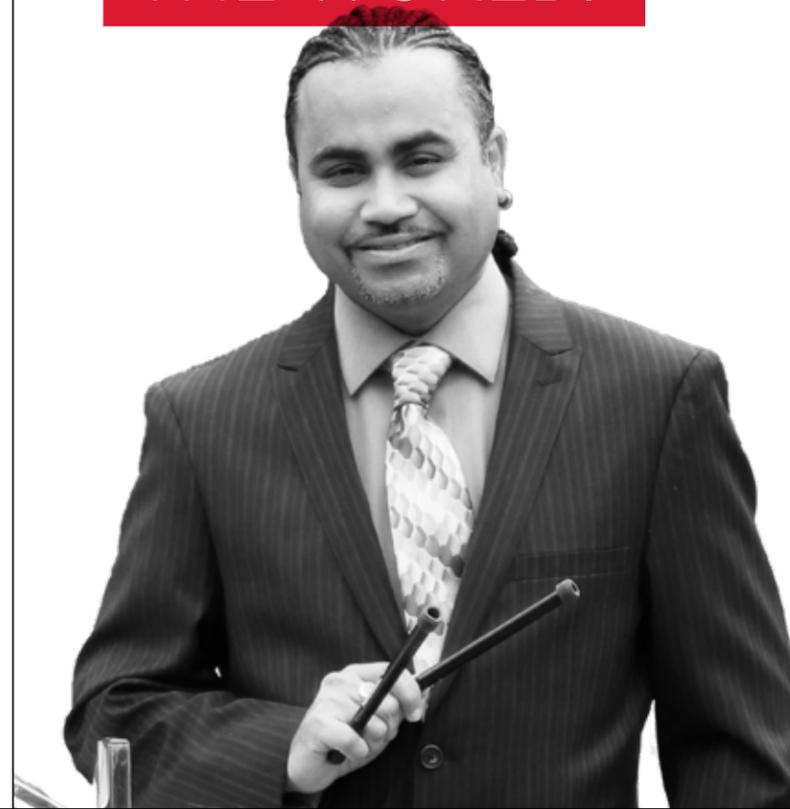
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- Bachelor of Music (B.M.)

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- M.M. - Performance
- M.M. - Music Education
- M.M. - Individualized Study



“OUR STEELPAN MAJORS ARE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.”



## LIAM TEAGUE, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, CHAIR OF STEELPAN STUDIES

Before Liam Teague became a professor in the School of Music, Chair of Steelpan Studies and director of our celebrated steelband, he was an NIU undergraduate preparing to make his mark as a steelpan musician. Since then, he most certainly has. Students regularly talk about how Teague's personal accomplishments, along with his relentless pursuit to bring the steelpan's musical possibilities to life, provides them with an experience above all others. Teague has won several notable competitions, performed around the world with Grammy Award-winning musicians, and crafted a discography that's earned him the nickname "Paganini of the Steelpan."

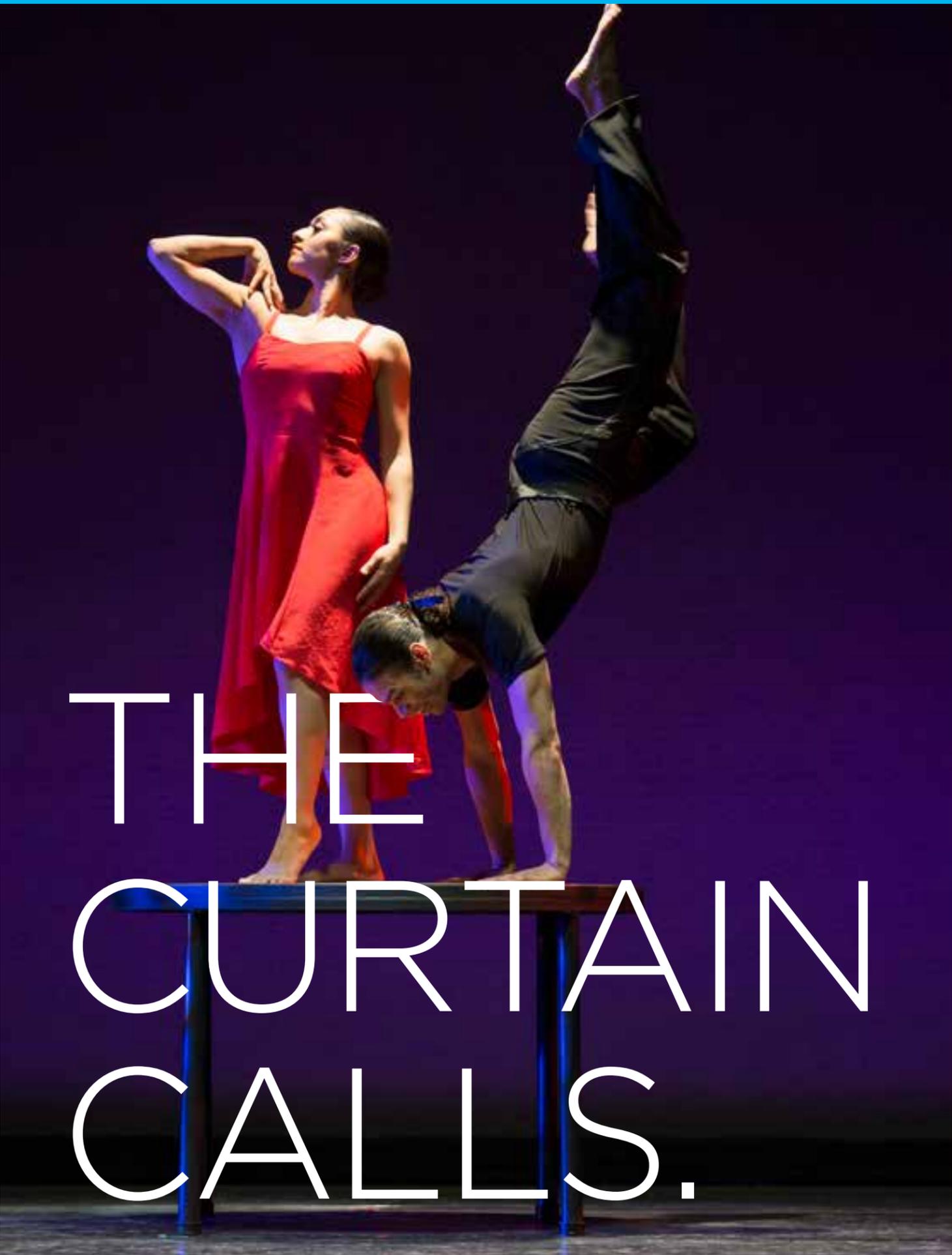
# EVERY CHARACTER BUILDS CHARACTER.

The instruction you get in class gives you knowledge of the past, the purpose of different techniques and a rich worldview. But the real training happens in action. So, we stage a full season of seven Mainstage Series and six Studio Series productions on three stages, providing public performance opportunities every year you're here. The production choices we make are designed to challenge both students and audiences. And, as part of an internationally-recognized program, each year a select group of students studies for one month at the famed Moscow Art Theatre School.

To any theatre or dance student looking for a training ground that's rigorous and realistic, designed for personal artistic development, and built to broaden your skills and attitudes so you can be the best — we say welcome to the School of Theatre and Dance.

Our principles are simple. Students perform publicly all four years of the program. Our students have a strong work ethic and commitment to excellence, but also the ability to work as an ensemble and treat other artists with respect — this is not only fostered but required. We emphasize collaboration, not competition.

Our faculty are more than great teachers. They're also accomplished artists. In addition to the skill and wisdom they pass on, they bring a connectivity among the entertainment industry that can translate into a real advantage for students.



# THE CURTAIN CALLS.



# CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT IS CRITICAL TO CREATIVE PROCESS.

Our state-of-the-art theatre and dance facilities include a fully equipped 440-seat proscenium theatre (the O'Connell Theatre), the Sally Stevens Players Theatre, a 150 seat open stage workshop facility (the Corner Theatre) and a modular black box theatre with two-tiered seating and a fully trapped stage.

Choose from several degree programs, such as B.F.A. with emphases in acting, B.A. in theatre, costume design, lighting design, scenic design and theatre technology, and dance performance; and M.F.A. with specializations in acting, design and technology.

Hone your skills in a professional grade scene shop for construction, painting and stage mechanics. We also have a lighting workshop, three specialized lab spaces for experimental projects and a sophisticated computer graphics laboratory.

For those looking to focus behind the scenes, we offer one of the most robust programs and facilities in the nation. You'll combine coursework and stagecraft in a host of specialized areas, including costumes, design (including drawing and painting), theater history, period styles, directing, theater technology (such as scene painting and pattern drafting), and computer-assisted design (CAD) and rendering.



If dancing is your passion, you'll receive training that's equal parts ballet and modern dance from faculty who are working professionals in the dance industry. Perform on our stages and be connected to a world of opportunities beyond NIU, thanks to our long roster of accomplished, talented alumni who perform in the U.S. and internationally.



# THINK OUTSIDE THE (BLACK) BOX.

Located just 65 miles west of Chicago's Loop, the university has convenient access to all the educational, cultural, business and entertainment activities the nation's third largest metropolitan area has to offer.

Chicago has established itself as a relevant and rapidly evolving home for the performing arts. Lyric Opera, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre Company are all prominent, cutting-edge companies on the world stage. But there are numerous smaller theatres, such as Bailiwick Chicago, that are highly regarded by the arts community. We have direct relationships with this endlessly vibrant cultural resource, with opportunities to connect on campus and in the city itself.

But you'll find just as much opportunity 5,000 miles away. The School of Theatre and Dance has an exclusive collaboration with the legendary Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) in Moscow, Russia. B.F.A. Acting students will have opportunities to study acting, movement, singing, dance, theatre history, script analysis and the Mikhail Chekhov technique at MXAT. Internships can also be arranged with the Hatfield Theatre Festival in England, and the Gaiety Theatre in Ireland.

**From here, virtually anything is possible.**

## PUT IT ALL OUT THERE.

Our undergraduate experience is not a warm-up. Performance demands putting yourself on the line and dedicating yourself to the craft. We create an environment and coursework that drive you to take risks and seize chances. This isn't just to make you a better performer. It's aimed at making you a professional. From your first audition—the one to get accepted—to every audition after. Show us what you've got.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- B.F.A. Acting
- B.F.A. Dance Performance
- B.F.A. Design and Technology
- B.A. Theatre Studies

## PUSH YOUR BOUNDARIES.

Our graduate experience is focused on craft. On exploration. On deep development and definition applied to your specific discipline. You'll be working with faculty who are leading influences in their areas of focus, but also with a caliber of fellow students who will push you to perform at your best, while continuing to push what that is.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- M.F.A. Acting
- M.F.A. Costume Design
- M.F.A. Lighting Design
- M.F.A. Scenic Design
- M.F.A. Theatre Tech

“NIU IS ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY THE REASON THAT I WORK.”



**JOE MINOSO,  
ACTOR, '04, M.F.A.**

In 2004, Joe Minoso graduated from NIU with a Master of Fine Arts in Acting. Fourteen years later in 2018, he was awarded NIU's Alumni Achievement in the Arts Award for his acting accomplishments. He attributes his career success to the eye-opening experiences and skills he was able to obtain during his time in DeKalb. “NIU is almost single-handedly the reason that I work.... I wouldn't be able to do the things that I do on screen or on stage without the skills I learned at Northern.” Minoso's acting credits include six seasons as a regular on *Chicago Fire*, appearances on a number of TV shows like *Prison Break* and *Shameless*, and a role in the major motion picture *Man of Steel*.



# EXPLORE CONNECTIONS MADE THROUGH VISUAL CULTURE.

As part of the CVPA's vibrant arts community on campus, the Art Museum presents annual exhibitions and events that foster appreciation of art, diversity and interconnections of the creative experience.

The dual roles of the Art Museum are to contribute significantly to the university's educational curriculum and provide opportunities for art education and cultural enrichment to our community. We educate, preserve, exhibit and enlighten by balancing the challenges of contemporary art with the riches of traditional visual media for a comprehensive examination of visual culture.

The archives of the museum are home to a vast and highly valued collection of artistic works from historical and contemporary masters as well as current influential and emerging artistic perspectives. It is a great point of pride and inspiration for CVPA students and faculty alike. To truly understand the impact of the NIU Art Museum, we recommend you visit and experience one of our exhibitions or attend an event. We strive to serve as a place to think critically in a learning laboratory for study and discovery.



# ART. COMMUNITY. EQUALLY ESSENTIAL.

Coursework and artwork aren't everything. It's critical for students and faculty to engage with all kinds of audiences and the community in all kinds of ways.

This is why we've developed a culture of opportunity beyond campus. We encourage every student to get as involved as possible, to expand what's possible.

Community School of the Arts programming connects the resources of the NIU College of Visual and

Performing Arts with the people who live in the area, through a variety of programs that bring high quality arts education to people of all ages.



**7 residential camps in the arts are offered every summer for hundreds of middle and high school students.**



# VISIT. DISCOVER. AUDITION.

## JOIN US FOR A VISIT.

### 1. Attend an open house.

Come explore NIU with hundreds of other future Huskies. During our preview days you'll attend college sessions, tour campus and residence halls, and learn about our numerous resources.

### 2. Register for a campus visit.

Whether you're going to be a first-year student or transfer to NIU, we have campus visits where you can learn all about us! You'll attend a presentation, talk with current students and tour campus. There are even specific Transfers Get Information Fridays!

### 3. Schedule a personalized tour.

Schedule a personalized visit that's catered to you and your interests. Take a personalized tour, talk with campus departments, meet faculty and more!

## THEN, AUDITION!

The School of Music and the School of Theatre and Dance require an audition in addition to applying to NIU. We'd love for you to come for a personalized tour to learn more about the Schools and audition process. Check out [niu.edu/music](http://niu.edu/music) or [niu.edu/theatre](http://niu.edu/theatre) for more information on audition dates and requirements.

### Undergraduate Admissions

Williston Hall 101  
350 Normal Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Open Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 4:30pm

Phone: 815-753-0446  
Toll-free: 800-892-3050  
Email: [admissions@niu.edu](mailto:admissions@niu.edu)

## CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST OF ATTENDANCE? KNOW YOUR OPTIONS.

We know there can be a lot of questions when it comes to paying for your education. What does it cost? Can I get a scholarship? A loan? A job? We're here to help you every step of the way.

When you complete your application to NIU you will automatically be considered for merit scholarships, but we encourage you to apply early. We have many other university scholarships through our MyScholarships system and also resources for outside scholarships. There are even opportunities for talent scholarships in our Schools of Art and Design, Music, and Theatre and Dance.

Joining us from out-of-state? We're excited to say that all domestic students pay the same rate! That's right — no out-of-state tuition. At NIU, we're committed to making college affordable and offering the quality programs you expect.

**Scholarships** are awarded based on a variety of factors, including academic achievement and financial need. They do not need to be repaid. Many scholarships are awarded by NIU as well as private organizations.

**Grants** are awarded by the federal and state governments, as well as by NIU, based on financial need. You need to file a FAFSA® to be considered for most grants. In general, grants do not need to be repaid.

**Federal and private loans** are also possibilities if you qualify. To be considered for a federal loan you must file a FAFSA each year. Private loans may require a separate application and credit check. Loans must be repaid.

**Federal work-study programs** give you opportunities to earn money by working for NIU. You will have to apply and be hired to earn your potential award amount. These earnings do not need to be repaid. At NIU we have over 3,000 work-study and non-work-study on-campus job opportunities for students!

**Learn more about these various opportunities, along with tips and additional information about financial aid and scholarships at [niu.edu/financial-aid](http://niu.edu/financial-aid).**

A real and undeniable college experience doesn't stop at the campus. So, we don't either. The College of Visual and Performing Arts provides opportunities to make a positive impact in the local community, work and form valuable connections in the heart of Chicago, and explore the world while studying abroad. This is what sets us apart and creates an artistic journey for our students that goes beyond the rest.

# MAKE THE NEXT JOURNEY YOURS.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:**

[theatreinfo@niu.edu](mailto:theatreinfo@niu.edu)

[music@niu.edu](mailto:music@niu.edu)

[artanddesigninfo@niu.edu](mailto:artanddesigninfo@niu.edu)

**We're excited to meet you!**

Acting | Brass | Ceramics | Composition | Costume Design | Dance | Drawing | Design & Technology | Fiber | Guitar  
Illustration | Jazz Studies | Keyboard | Lighting Design | Metal | Music Education | Music History & Literature | Music Theory | Painting  
Percussion | Photography | Printmaking | Recording Arts | Scenery Design | Sculpture | Steelpan | Strings | Theatre Studies  
Theatre Tech | Time Arts | Visual Communications | Voice | Woodwinds | World Music

[niu.edu/cvpa](http://niu.edu/cvpa)



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