
HKB

Hochschule der Künste Bern
Bern University of the Arts

EN

Master

Theater —

Expanded Theater



Berner Fachhochschule
Bern University of Applied Sciences

Studying Theater at
Bern University of the Arts HKB

Step 1

**BA Theater /
Acting**

Step 2

**MA Theater
— Expanded
Theater**

Theater Expanded!

With this attitude in mind we would like to encourage and enable you to find your own artistic voice. The *Master of Arts in Theater – Expanded Theater* is designed to help you to develop specific forms and ways of working that allow you to realise your artistic ideas independently and boldly, venturing beyond existing conventions without being restricted by the boundaries of a particular performing arts genre.

The 18-month MA programme centres around an in-depth examination of different approaches in contemporary theater as well as your own devised projects. This requires a broad study programme which takes into account individual students' interests and abilities without becoming random or unfocused.

HKB offers a wide variety of courses. And in addition you can attend courses offered by the four theater departments participating in Master-Campus-Theater-CH. You can benefit from the vast experience and knowledge of our highly qualified tutors and renowned visiting lecturers. And last but not least, our student body is very diverse in terms of artistic background, cultural origin and professional experience.

At the same time, this master degree offers you great flexibility in the way you organise your studies and your individually supervised projects: Students at HKB are coached by mentors who are experts in their respective fields and work closely with students on their projects. This is why the work produced in this master programme is just as diverse and multi-faceted in form, content and focus as our students.

It is a central concern of the master programme that students maintain a close connection to professional practice throughout. In order to allow the necessary flexibility and time we offer the option of part-time study for up to five semesters. This way we hope to facilitate a smooth transition from training to professional practice.

Wolfram Heberle
Head of Theater Studies

Master of Arts in Theater – Expanded Theater

The Master of Arts in Theater constitutes a laboratory in which contemporary theater practice in all its diversity is examined and investigated. Students are confronted with an expanded notion of theater both in terms of the handling of contemporary forms of theater and performance as well as of the development and realisation of new visions.

The main objective of this master is to teach the skills needed for artistic practice, be it as an individual or as part of a team.

The programme allows theater professionals from different performing arts disciplines to further and deepen their training and experience over three semesters and graduate with a Master of Arts in Theater with a specialisation in Expanded Theater. In the course of this programme artists from various performing arts genres get to learn and work together: actors, dancers, performers and puppeteers among others.

On the one hand, the “Bern Master” is aimed at students who have just completed a BA in a performing arts discipline such as drama, dance or performance and who wish to become highly qualified professionals. On the other hand, it offers working theater practitioners an opportunity to question and further develop their artistic experience in a higher-education context.

The flexible curriculum and the option of tailor-made schedules allow students to work out their own understanding of theater as well as their own style and aesthetic choices. They individually decide what to focus on and which subjects, topics and issues to engage with.

The Bern theater training has a long-standing reputation for questioning conventions and promoting innovative forms of theater: We share a concept of theater as an artistic statement made with the use of body and language and set in space and time. We deal with aspects that go beyond pure performing skills, such as set design, lighting design, sound and the use of different media. And we highly value the contextualisation of our students’ artistic practice in a professional working environment.

The programme does not only take into account German-language theater, but engages with trends and developments in the international theater scene, which is reflected by the wide choice of lecturers.

Degree Structure

The organisation of the course depends on students' individual priorities. Students build their portfolio by choosing classes offered by the theater department or other departments of HKB, as well as classes offered by the different universities participating in Master-Campus-Theater-CH.

Workshops and Toolboxes

The toolboxes are designed to help students expand and deepen their skills and tools. They focus on basic performing skills and on working with the body and the voice. They comprise workshops on dance, movement, voice or performance as well as on the artistic exploration of space, sound and lighting. Further modules address acting and directing work with regard to theory, organisation, project management, technical skills, society and research. The toolboxes and workshops are taught by accomplished artists with experience in theory or practice. Students with an interest in practice-led research are given the opportunity to examine artistic practice with regard to specific theoretical questions.

Guest Projects

In the course of the master programme students collectively create a project under the guidance of a renowned performing arts practitioner whose working method they get immersed in. These projects usually centre around the teaching of certain methods of composition and devising. The results of those collaborations are performed in public or presented for discussion.

Production, Individual Projects

In different production modules, which constitute a vital part of the course, students work on their individual artistic objectives under the tutelage of mentors. They are involved in the choice of their mentors.

Master's Thesis

The master's thesis is both the student's biggest individual piece of work and their graduation project. It consists of three parts: MA thesis concept (written), MA thesis project (applied practice) and MA thesis evaluation (written). The MA thesis demonstrates the student's ability to independently initiate, plan, realise and evaluate a performance project both on an artistic and an organisational level.

“While doing my Master’s degree I had the opportunity of doing productions at Stadttheater Bern and Nationaltheater Weimar and of participating in independent projects. The ties that I had established with the professional theaters during my studies smoothly led to a permanent contract at Schauspielhaus Graz.”

Julia Gräfner, permanent company member
at Schauspielhaus Graz





















“In my master’s thesis I dealt with the phenomenon of the fictional character. I did extensive research and interviewed experts. Artistic and scholarly research have since been inextricably linked to my performance work.”

Mira Kandathil,
researching performer

- 01 Mira Kandathil, “Follow us”
Depicted person: Mira Kandathil, photo: David Wohlschlag
- 02 Lisa Seidel-Kukuk, “Sensibles Chaos”
Depicted person: Lisa Seidel-Kukuk, photo: Ben Zurbriggen
- 03 Nils Amadeus Lange, Teresa Vittucci, “u betta cry”
Depicted persons: Teresa Vittucci / Nils Amadeus Lange, photo: Lukas Beyeler
- 04 Daniel Hellmann, “Traumboy”
Depicted person: Daniel Hellmann, photo: Till Böcker
- 05 Julia Gräfner, “ich würde alles für die Liebe tun, ich mach’s aber nicht”
Depicted person: Julia Gräfner, photo: Annette Boutellier

Directors and Lecturers

Head of Theater Studies

Wolfram Heberle

In addition to the seasoned lecturer team at the HKB, numerous guest lecturers teach courses in the master's programme in theater.

Guest lecturers and mentors (selection)

- Laurent Chétouane (F): director, choreographer
- Viviane de Muynck (B): actress, Needcompany
- Ivo Dimchev (BUL): choreographer, dancer
- Kate McIntosh (NZ): performer, dancer, video artist
- François Chaignaud (F): dancer, choreographer
- Urs Dietrich (D): choreographer
- Roberto Fratini Serafide (I): dramaturge, writer
- Caden Manson / Jemma Nelson (USA): Big Art Group
- Hans-Werner Kroesinger (D): director
- Frank Chartier (B): choreographer, dancer, Peeping Tom
- Lukas Bangerter (CH): director, Plasma
- Nele Janke / Maurice De Martin (D): Oper Dynamo West
- Jetse Batelaan (NL): director
- Hans-Thies Lehmann (D): theater scholar
- Gerald Siegmund (D): theater and dance theorist
- Jens Roselt (D): theater scholar
- Penelope Wehrli (CH): director, scenographer
- Bojana Kunst (SL): philosopher, performance theorist
- Michael Harenberg (D): composer, media scholar
- Felix Kubin (D): experimental musician, audio-play producer
- Johanna Freiburg / Berit Stumpf (D): Gob Squad
- VA Wöfl (D): visual artist, choreographer, Neuer Tanz Düsseldorf
- Jan Ritsema (NL): director, performer
- Ann Liv Young (USA): performer

Competence Centres and Research

HKB Theater Zikadenweg

In 2012 the theater department moved to a campus featuring a 3,000 m² area of working and performance spaces, including three flexible stages equipped with professional theater engineering: a main, a studio and a rehearsal stage. Students have at their disposal nine large spaces that serve as rehearsal rooms and studios as well as a video and sound editing suite. A movement space and several smaller studios, a technical workshop, a collection of costumes and props as well as a theater library provide our students with an excellent environment for their intense training in the performing arts.

Further HKB Campuses

Besides the premises on-site, students have access to the facilities of other HKB campuses. Among those are the **MediaLab**, the competence and service centre for audio-visual design and photography. It includes work stations and studios with extensive production equipment and is accessible twenty-four-seven. The **Mediothek** (media centre) at Fellerstrasse contains 35,000 different media and is open to all HKB students.

Y Institute

The Y Institute is a centre for interdisciplinary studies. It is committed to the basic idea that neither art nor thinking respect the boundaries between different artistic disciplines. The institute considers itself a place of communication between

various forms of knowledge and presentation. Its curriculum orchestrates an interplay of the arts, operates at the interface of art and scholarship and thus brings together different disciplines and cultures of knowledge.

Research

Research at HKB combines scholarly, artistic and technological approaches. It is applied and addresses issues considered relevant in contemporary society. It is normally published in the form of performances, processes or publications. There are four interdepartmental research fields: intermediality, interpretation, communication design, and materiality in arts and culture. A recent research project in Theater Studies, for instance, investigates different speech-related rehearsal methods in contemporary theater. The project examines the different methods and procedures used by actors and directors in the collaborative generation of text. The findings of research projects are directly incorporated into the teaching and training of our students.

Master students are already given insights into research projects during their studies. Once they have graduated they have the opportunity of further qualification by applying for a PhD at the Bern Graduate School of the Arts, which is run jointly by HKB and Bern University. hkb.bfh.ch/en/research

Information and Contact

Target group

Actors, stage directors, dancers, performers and practitioners from any other performing arts discipline.

Prerequisites

The Master Theater – Expanded Theater requires strong innovative and creative potential, a high degree of autonomy, and the ability to reflect on one's own practice and to work collaboratively.

Admission Requirements

Candidates for the master programme are subject to an admission procedure. The formal admission requirements are:

- a Bachelor of Arts in Theater or theater-related studies or
- another equivalent qualification that will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee in the context of the entry examinations.

The teaching and working languages in the MA Theater programme are German and English.

Scope and Duration

Standard study period:
3 semesters 90 ECTS credits
The course can be extended to a maximum of 5 semesters.

Place of Study

HKB Theater
Zikadenweg 35, CH-3006 Bern

Degree

Master of Arts in Theater –
Expanded Theater

Registration Deadline

The current dates are available at hkb.bfh.ch. Students can start the course in either the spring or autumn semester.

Tuition Fees

Fee per semester 750 CHF
Examination fee 150 CHF
Application fee 100 CHF

Admission Procedure

Application documents

Interested parties submit their application documents and the written draft of a project they wish to realise in the course of their studies. Candidates apply online at hkb.bfh.ch.

Find a list of required documents at hkb.bfh.ch/ma-theater

Initial selection by the Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee consisting of the Head of Studies and selected theater tutors evaluates candidates on the basis of their application documents. The HKB Admissions Committee recommends selected candidates for the examination or the admission interview.

Examination / Admission interview

HKB then invites selected candidates to an admission interview. If necessary, a practical presentation may also be required.

Decision on final admission

After the interview HKB takes a final decision on admission and informs candidates immediately.

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Consultation and information

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