



# UNC GREENSBORO

## School of Theatre

### College of Visual and Performing Arts

UNCG School of Theatre  
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Dear UNCG Theatre Angels,



As I look out the window in my new office, I'm noticing the leaves changing colors. Likewise, there is so much adaptation and innovation happening in the School of Theatre. We've moved out of the Taylor Building which is undergoing an infrastructure renovation project to improve the HVAC system. In addition, we will also be getting new seating and greater accessibility for Taylor Theatre. Our *Name a Seat Campaign* is an important part of this renovation project (more later about this).



If we're not in Taylor, where are we? This season we are Beyond the Beyond! Faculty are settling into offices in the former Moore Nursing Building which now has an upfitted acting studio and a makeup classroom. Our production season is centered in the Pam and David Sprinkle Theatre. We're also performing two shows in the UNCG Auditorium and producing a community-based theatre project downtown called *Where•Else* in collaboration with the Elsewhere Museum and the Newcomers School. The North Carolina Theatre for Young People tour hits the road touring to local schools after a month of Saturday performances in Sprinkle Theatre, and the BFA Musical Theatre Juniors perform their studio show at Well-spring Retirement Community this spring. Film and video projects are now a regular part of our season. This semester you can view *I ♥ Collaboration*, a web series created by the School of Theatre and the Department of Media Studies with support from the School of Music. Each week a new episode of the web series can be viewed on our YouTube channel. Visit [www.uncgtheatre.com](http://www.uncgtheatre.com) for more information about our 2023-2024 season.



The School of Theatre continues to grow with an incoming class of 96 students this year. The faculty makeup has shifted dramatically – at this point over half the faculty have been at UNCG less than 5 years. We're searching for four faculty positions to bring in next year – Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre (directing/choreography), Assistant Professor of Lighting, Lecturer in Theatre History/Dramaturgy, and Lecturer in Sound. If you know any talented artist educators who may want to join our wonderful team, please send them our way!



As with many universities, budget reductions have been consistent at UNCG over the past few years. Enrollment has declined due to the pandemic and other mitigating factors and the UNC System has changed the funding model for higher education with greater emphasis on undergraduate education and North Carolinians. We've been impacted significantly by these shifts; our state budget for productions decreased by 65%, our staff was reduced, and we sunsetted the MFA Directing program. These changes are difficult and there are likely more budget reductions to come. With your support, we're weathering the changes and will continue implementing the mission of the School of Theatre: *to prepare students to be informed theatre practitioners with commitment to creativity, innovation, inclusion, and the advancement of the art form.* Our students deserve the best education possible and that's exactly what we ensure them as we move forward.



While we are away from Taylor Theatre, we're implementing the *School of Theatre Name a Seat Campaign* – in exchange for a donation to the School, you can name a seat or a row in honor of someone (including yourself). This could be a great way for your graduating class to be forever represented in Taylor Theatre. It would also be a beautiful way to acknowledge the impact of one of your former theatre professors. When we return to Taylor in 2025, there will be an event unveiling the name plaques. Visit our website for more information about the *School of Theatre Name a Seat Campaign*. Where does your money go when you donate to the School of Theatre? It goes towards School of Theatre community building activities and trainings, scholarships for students to attend SETC, USITT, and other important conferences, etc. Every dollar you contribute is used to support student success.



I am so grateful for your continued support and connection to the School of Theatre. I hope you'll attend a production this season and join us for our opening night receptions co-sponsored by APO, participate in the seat campaign, donate to the Angels fund, sponsor a show, volunteer to speak in a class – any or all of the above. If you have an idea for Angels and alumni involvement in the School of Theatre, please share it with me – you're a valuable part of our community and you are always welcome.



Warm Regards,

Natalie Sowell

**Photo Credits:** Robi Arce-Martínez & Josh Ritter

**Photo information in order of occurrence:** Photos 1 & 2: *Masks in Performance*; Photos 3 & 5: *Movement II for BFA Acting Sophomores*; Photos 4, 5, & 6 *Stagecrafts* (bone structure makeup application)