Our Mission
The mission of the Theatre Department is to provide students with rigorous pre-professional theatre training within the context of a traditional liberal arts college education. The degree options offered by the Theatre Department are designed to fulfill every student’s potential and to equip students with the skills required to succeed in the professional theatre, graduate school, and a wide range of vocations.

Our Uniqueness
The Emory & Henry Theatre Department offers students the combined strengths of a small liberal arts college and the type of pre-professional experiences often found only in large conservatories. In addition to its broad-based general theatre major and minor, the Theatre Department offers tracks in four areas of specialization: acting, directing, musical theatre, and production/design. Each of these pre-professional tracks is a separate, sequence-based training program with specialized course work in the chosen area. Both the General Theatre major and the four specialized tracks combine in-depth academic preparation with extensive production work.

The Emory & Henry Theatre Department operates in association with the Barter Theatre, a professional LORT C Equity company located in Abingdon, Va., ten minutes from the E&H campus. This association offers theatre majors opportunities for professional internships, mentoring, workshops and master classes throughout their college career. Barter staff members often serve as adjunct faculty and guest artists in the Theatre Department.

Facilities
Emory & Henry College broke ground in 2013 on a $20 million visual and performing arts center that will enhance the College’s reputation as a regional leader in the arts and arts education. Due to open Fall Semester 2015, the 40,000-square-foot center includes a 450-seat theater with a proscenium stage and fly system, a 150-seat black box theater, dressing rooms, production areas, gallery space, a three-dimensional design studio and the College’s radio station.

Production Season
Each year, Theatre Department students participate as cast or production crew members in four mainstage productions encompassing a range of material, including musicals, contemporary plays, classical pieces, and new or experimental works. All shows are directed and designed by E&H faculty, Barter Theatre staff, or guest directors from New York or other metropolitan areas. In addition, student-directed showcase productions are produced each semester, offering further opportunities for students to be actively involved in practical production work as actors, directors, designers or technicians.

Student Success
Theatre Department alumni and current students have been employed as actors, choreographers, directors, stage managers, musical directors, house managers, designers, theatre development officers, lighting/sound technicians, theatre and dance teachers, technicians and carpenters in theatres all over the country. During their time at Emory & Henry College theatre majors are encouraged to audition for various professional summer theatre programs. With guidance and coaching provided by E&H faculty, students have passed through the Southeastern Theatre Conference’s (SETC) qualifying auditions at a higher rate than those from any other private college in Virginia. SETC is the largest repertory audition in the country. Every summer a large portion of our current students work in internships across the country.

With guidance and coaching provided by E&H faculty, students have passed through the Southeastern Theatre Conference’s (SETC) qualifying auditions at a higher rate than those from any other private college in Virginia.
The department is also active in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). In 2008, E&H students Eric Eteuati with partner Laura Crockarell won the Region IV Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition at KCACTF. As a result, Eric was one of only 16 college actors in the country invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Successful Alumni

Alumni of the Theatre Department have been accepted into graduate programs at Carnegie Mellon University, Eastern Michigan University, Emerson College, Florida State University, University of Colorado at Boulder, Indiana University at Bloomington, Radford University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Oregon and Western Illinois Graduate School.

Close to 100 percent of Emory & Henry College Theatre Department graduates find work in the entertainment industry following graduation.

Faculty

Daniel Wheeler, Department Chair (design, technical direction, stagecraft, scenography). B.A., University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; M.A., University of Wisconsin-Superior; M.F.A., University of Southern California. 276.944.6227 or dwheeler@ehc.edu.

Kelly Bremner (directing, theatre history, script analysis, devised theatre). B.A., William Smith College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison. 276.944.6901 or kbremer@ehc.edu.

Christine Young-Gerber (musical theatre, voice for the stage, vocal performance). B.F.A., Northern Kentucky University; M.A., University of Kentucky; M.F.A., University of Central Florida. 276.944.6164 or cgerber@ehc.edu.

Andrew Blasenak (acting, movement, professional theatre experience, auditions). B.A., Marymount Manhattan College; M.Litt, M.F.A., Mary Baldwin College; Ph.D., The Ohio State University. 276.944.6667 or ablasenak@ehc.edu.