

Dramatic Arts (affectionately known as DART) has a comprehensive and innovative program of theatre studies revolving around the core notion of praxis—the rich feedback loop between creativity and analysis.

The DART difference is that you experience intensive studio training and small-group seminar sessions from your very first year in the program, across every area of study. Integrated core courses and strong connections with main stage shows and other placement opportunities—both on and off campus—generate a rigorous and supportive learning culture no matter what your choice of Concentration. This enables us to graduate a Brock-style “triple threat”: artist-scholar-educator.

In your four year degree program, you may choose one of four Concentrations: Performance, Drama in Education and Applied Theatre, Production and Design, or Theatre Praxis. It is also possible to pursue an “open” program without declaring a Concentration area. We recommend Concentrations because it ensures that you have the pre-requisites for the senior year classes you, but many students have crafted individualized study paths thanks to the excellent academic advising available.

Detailed information about the programs and courses is found online in the Academic Calendar: [brocku.ca/webcal/undergrad/DART](http://brocku.ca/webcal/undergrad/DART)

## The Drama in Education and Applied Theatre (DIE/AT) Concentration

This concentration is essentially concerned with using drama and theatre to make connections within our community, be that in the classroom with school-aged children and teens, or with local programs that help people who are marginalized, or within other community-building settings. We are all playwrights as we pre-live and relive life’s experiences. Building upon this natural state, the DIE/AT concentration uses role-play to assist us in better understanding ourselves, our world, curricular content and our artistry in both school and community settings. As you engage in process drama and applied theatre techniques you will develop a series of inter and intrapersonal skills that can be used in many aspects of life and in the making of theatre. By developing an increased awareness of contemporary, societal, and social justice issues you will develop critical and reflective personal responses that deepen and enhance your artistic vision. Curriculum engagement through drama, clown doctoring, and applied theatre devised performances and workshops on migration, poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, workplace violence, literature and historical events are just a few of the opportunities available to you as a DIE/AT student to engage with your community on current and immediate issues.

Lead faculty for more information:  
Joe Norris [jnorris@brocku.ca](mailto:jnorris@brocku.ca)  
Yasmine Kandil [ykandil@brocku.ca](mailto:ykandil@brocku.ca)



## Welcome to Dramatic Arts at Brock University

Department of Dramatic Arts  
Brock University  
Niagara Region  
1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way,  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2S 3A1 Canada  
T 905 688 5550 x5255

*located at 15 Artists' Common  
in downtown St. Catharines*

[brocku.ca/dramatic\\_arts](http://brocku.ca/dramatic_arts)

Marilyn I. Walker  
School of Fine &  
Performing Arts

Brock University  
Faculty of Humanities

## The Performance Concentration

At Brock, you can take our studio performance classes **without** declaring as a Performance Concentration student. Annual spring auditions for the Concentration are optional, offering rigour and direction to those really serious about acting. Performance Concentration students spend 42% of their studies in studio classes. This is a high percentage for a liberal arts program (most offer 33%) because, in addition to first, second, and third full-year acting classes, we offer Voice, Commedia and Improvisation and, in the senior years, the Shaw Festival and Stratford Festival Intensives, as well as an Advanced Studies Ensemble production class. Incoming students should ask about our approach to performance. We emphasize physical and vocal expressivity in balance with Stanislavsky based scene study: our *praxis* philosophy means that we integrate theory with practice in a dramaturgy that investigates human motivation in society.

Lead faculty for more information:  
Gyllian Raby [graby@brocku.ca](mailto:graby@brocku.ca)  
Danielle Wilson [dwilson@brocku.ca](mailto:dwilson@brocku.ca)  
Mike Griffin [mgriffin@brocku.ca](mailto:mgriffin@brocku.ca)

## Production and Design Concentration

From the first year onward we welcome you into the realm of doing, building, and envisioning. Our skilled team of faculty, designers and professional production and technical staff open the door to stagecraft, stage management, theatre design, and everything in between. You will study theatre arts and innovative technologies across history and contrast these with your own experiences of different working methodologies: from working on Main stage productions and One Act festivals, to designing your own ensemble production in fourth year. Exploring theatre design with conceptual responses to dramatic text, psychologies of space and peoples' physical relationships in space, will engage you in a creative process that grounds and evolves your personal artistic vision. Just as with performance, our integrated students study production practices through second year; our goal is that, on graduation, you have the skills to produce, design, devise and perform a fringe festival show. Some graduates will pursue advanced conservatory type, applied, design or technical production studies or move directly into theatre production and design.

Lead faculty for more information:  
David Vivian [dvivian@brocku.ca](mailto:dvivian@brocku.ca)  
Gyllian Raby [graby@brocku.ca](mailto:graby@brocku.ca)

## Theatre Praxis Concentration

An artist-scholar-educator needs to think, write, and speak critically about the cultural, historical, and material realities of theatre and performance. In each year of their degree, all DART students take the core Praxis courses that explore the history and impact of performances of many kinds—from theatre to performance art, from ritual to sports—as cultural practices embedded in social contexts. Understanding relationships between performance theories and practices will allow you to engage with performance as a pathway for enacting progressive social change. Students investigate the implications of different kinds of texts and performances in intensive seminars with both analytical and creative assignments. By casting a critical light on realities such as representations of class, gender and race we invite an understanding of theatre as philosophy on its feet and social process in motion. These classes, combined with Main stage productions and many other production and placement opportunities, make up the core *praxis* philosophy of DART: that intellectual inquiry informs creative expression, and vice-versa.

Lead faculty for more information:  
David Fancy [dfancy@brocku.ca](mailto:dfancy@brocku.ca)  
Natalie Alvarez [nalvarez@brocku.ca](mailto:nalvarez@brocku.ca)  
Karen Fricker [kfricker@brocku.ca](mailto:kfricker@brocku.ca)