The MFA Directing program is based on the idea that one’s vision as a director is developed through practice, encouragement, critical feedback, collaboration, and more practice. In addition to exposure to the theories and practices of the great theatre directors of the past, students are encouraged to experiment with both formal structures and physical ideas about directing, and to apply theories from intersecting art forms such as music, painting, and dance to their work on the stage. They are asked to move constantly between practical considerations of staging and collaboration to the deeper issues behind the existence and nature of theatre. The training is project-oriented and offers the director the possibility of working daily with actors, playwrights, dramaturgs, and managers. There are opportunities to direct great classical texts, to work with playwrights on new plays, and to make performance events from fresh collaborations with artists of many disciplines.

James Dacre: Artistic Director of Royal & Derngate in Northampton.

Darko Tresnjak: Artistic Director of Hartford Stage, Tony Award Winner for Best Direction of a Musical.

Rachel Chavkin: Founding Artistic Director of the TEAM.

Jay Scheib: director of the Program in Theater Arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Diane Paulus: Artistic Director of the American Repertory Theater, Tony Award Winner for Best Direction of a Musical.

December 1, 2015
SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Fall Semester – Year 1:
Directing I
Anne Bogart
History and Theory of Theatre
Arnold Aronson
Scene Study
Brian Kulick
Visiting Artists
Anne Bogart
Elective*

Spring Semester – Year 1:
Directing II
Brian Kulick
Collaboration
Anne Bogart
Contemporary American Plays
Lisa Timmel
Models of Dramatic Structure
Arnold Aronson
Visiting Artists
Anne Bogart
Viewpoints
Kelly Maurer

Fall Semester – Year 2:
Directing III
Anne Bogart
Scene Study
Brian Kulick
Director-Designer Workshop
Anne Bogart and Brian Kulick
Visiting Artists
Anne Bogart
Advanced Play Directing Seminar
Gregory Mosher

Spring Semester – Year 2:
Shakespeare in Performance
Brian Kulick
Directing IV
Anne Bogart
Fundraising and Marketing
Victoria Bailey
Visiting Artists
Anne Bogart
Elective*

Additional Requirements include one production assignment, Collaboration Weekend Workshop and two professional internships.

Directing Thesis Projects are directed by third-year MFA directing students, with professional casts in combination with MFA actors, and have a modest production budget. In addition to the production itself, students complete a formal written thesis of 50-100 pages on the production.