Majors in theater and performance studies acquire the fundamental tools for artistic creation while developing a nuanced and sophisticated vocabulary with which to analyze creativity.

**The Lab Series**
The Lab Series offers weekly special engagements between UChicago students and leading creative artists from across the country.

**Master Class with Amy Morton**
Steppenwolf ensemble member and Tony Award-nominated Amy Morton, whose 30+ Steppenwolf appearances include August: Osage County and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, led a very specific actor workshop geared toward TAPS/UT students with professional aspirations.

**Viewpoints with Tina Landau**
The director, whose Steppenwolf work includes The Hot L Baltimore, The Brother/Sister Plays, and Superior Donuts, led students in Viewpoints, a technique that derives a commonplace acting vocabulary through movement.

**Oskar Eustis and David Henry Hwang**
In association with UChicago's ArtSpeaks, award-winning writer/producer Oskar Eustis, artistic director of New York's Public Theater, led an engaging discussion with David Henry Hwang, internationally renowned playwright (M. Butterfly, Yellow Face), about their work in the performing arts.

**Movement Workshop with Mark Morris**
Drawing inspiration from music and rhythm, the acclaimed dance choreographer and director led a workshop that disected different dance styles, including works performed in Chicago by his own Mark Morris Dance Group.

**Tony Kushner**
The Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of Angels in America worked closely in the rehearsal room with students on presentation of a reading of his original script But, the Giraffe.

At UChicago, students can fully immerse themselves in the theater through a comprehensive academic program and a number of vibrant cocurricular organizations, including over 35 on-campus productions each year, open to majors and non-majors alike. The theater and performance studies (TAPS) program focuses on opportunity and innovation, offering students a variety of experiences both on campus and inside Chicago's professional arts scene. Whether their goal is a career in the performing arts or graduate study in the best MFA, MBA, and PhD programs in the country, graduates of TAPS are well prepared by a broad-based liberal arts education with practical and academic theater experience.

**Course Work and Faculty**
The theater and performance studies major and minor combine academic theory with artistic practice. Courses approach performance from diverse perspectives including site-specific installation, history and theory of drama, dramaturgy, Meisner technique, clown work, and textual analysis. Majors become proficient in the practice of two media (for example, theater, film, video, dance, music, or creative
writing) and gain fluency in the critical analysis of those media. The fourth year culminates in an original creative honors project, produced in the spring and accompanied by a critical paper. TAPS courses are open to students of all disciplines, and many courses fill Core requirements.

Chicago’s most influential theater professionals teach sequences in acting, directing, and design. Greg Allen (Neo-Futurists), Sean Graney (The Hypocrites), Bonnie Metzgar (About Face Theatre), and Rebecca Rugg (Steppenwolf) are just a few of the artists who call the UChicago classroom home. Full-time and guest lecturers bring students into contact with the city’s vibrant theater community as well.

As members of the UChicago community, these guest lecturers bring new perspectives to the classroom. Visiting artists have recently taught Ensemble Work, Solo Performance, Puppetry, Clown Work, Adaptation, and Choreography, among other courses. A focus on student work and critical feedback limits class size to 20 for an introductory Core course, 12 for writing and acting courses, and six for an advanced directing course. At the end of each quarter, courses culminate in a department-wide, cocurricular performance day.

Resources
The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, slated to open in spring 2012, will be a venue for artistic expression and multidisciplinary inquiry, performance, and production. The center will be the main home for UChicago’s creative and performing arts, a nexus for theater and performance, visual arts, music, and cinema and media studies.

Students also have easy access to Chicago’s thriving theater scene, which boasts over 200 active theaters ranging from large auditoriums to intimate black boxes. UChicago undergraduates have held internships in arts administration, new play development, production management, and many other fields, placing them in direct contact with artists and thinkers in the city. Students have acted on the Steppenwolf main stage and held assistant directorships at the Goodman, Northlight, and Court theaters. In addition, a variety of discounts are offered exclusively to UChicago students.

TAPS/UT As a Cocurricular Program
TAPS/UT is a cocurricular program that is deeply committed to student ownership. University Theater (UT) is the largest student organization on campus, with 400 student actors, playwrights, designers, producers, directors, and technicians. Anyone—no matter what year or what major—is eligible to work in any capacity on a show. Over the course of the school year, TAPS/UT stages more than 35 productions.

Within the TAPS/UT program are The Dean’s Men, the resident Shakespeare company, and Off-Off Campus, the second oldest continuously running student improv troupe in the country. The Dean’s Men perform one of the Bard’s texts each quarter, staging their spring production outdoors.

Off-Off Campus produces weekly sketch and improv shows, continuing the strong tradition of comedy at the University of Chicago—the birthplace of modern improvisation. Each Dean’s Men and Off-Off Campus show is produced with complete technical and production support provided by TAPS/UT.

For students interested in dance, the Dance Council is a newly created cocurricular program with theater and performance studies that involves more than 300 students in seven productions annually. The Dance Council includes Ballroom and Latin Dance, Bhangra, Chicago’s Swing Dance Society, Flamenco, Maya, PhiNix Dance Crew, Raas, Rhythmic Bodies in Motion, South Asian Students Association (SASA), Tap That!, U Ballet, and UC Dancers.

In addition to University Theater and the Dance Council, TAPS Teaching Lab Collaborations (TLC) is the outreach wing of TAPS/UT. Currently in the third year of a re-imagined program, TLC is dedicated to the exploration of arts in education by developing replicable, cocurricular, interdisciplinary programming and creative, thoughtful teaching artists.

In addition to University Theater, Performing Arts for Effective Civic Education brings civic awareness to K–12 communities through theater. Students may join the organization regardless of their major. Similarly, the Festival of the Arts brings students of all disciplines together for a 10-day event in spring, during which they transform the entire campus into an art gallery and performance space, showcasing over 50 projects in the visual, cinematic, and performing arts. UChicago students interested in producing and performing in films can get involved with the award-winning Fire Escape Films, which screens its student-produced films on campus and at film festivals around the country.