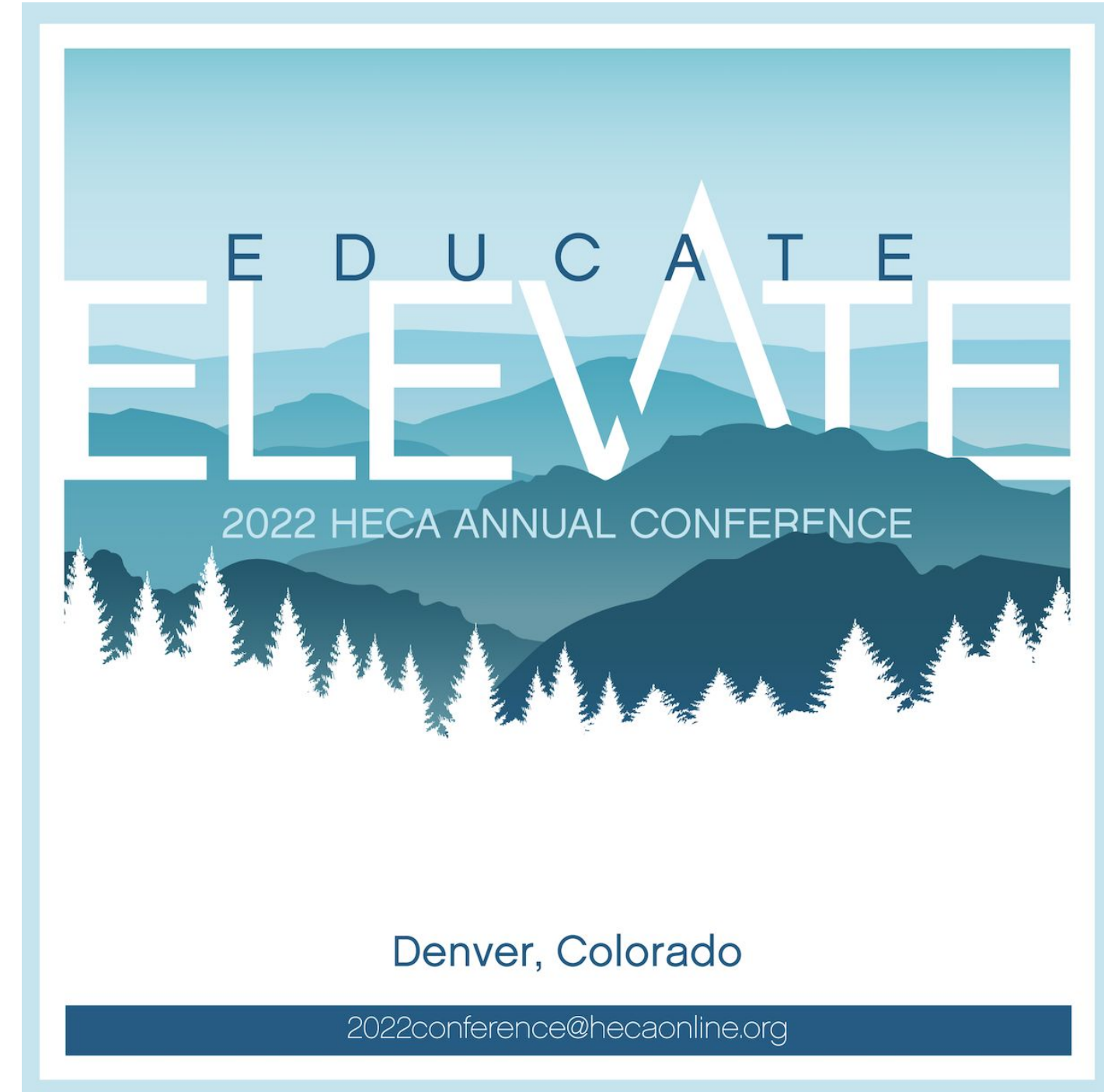


2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

All The World's A Stage:
*Supporting Performing Arts
Students*

#HECA2022CO

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Nita June, IEC, MFA

*Founder of Nita June College Counseling •
Theatre and Film Director*



Shelly Gaza, MFA, AEA

*Director, UNC Greeley School of Theatre Arts and Dance •
Executive Director, Little Theatre of the Rockies*



Bud Coleman, PhD

*Professor • Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre at CU Boulder •
Divisional Dean of Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences*

Today's Focus

- BFA vs BA in Theater and Film
- **FILM**
 - Entering into a BFA program
 - Preparation in high school for the major
 - Application and portfolio elements
 - Action timeline
- **THEATER**
 - Entering into a BFA program
 - Preparation in high school for the major
 - Application and audition elements
 - Action timeline
 - What professors are looking for: **Shelly Gaza** and **Bud Coleman**

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

VS.

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

- A BFA is for the student who, without a doubt, wishes to pursue theatre or film as a career. This program will be more intensive (conservatory-style) with fewer to no core requirements outside of the major.
- A BA is for the student who wants to dive deeply into the subject, but perhaps is still curious about other topics as well. By no means does a BFA trump a BA or guarantee success in a career. Rather, it depends on the student's level of interest. Generally, a BA does not require an audition or portfolio submission.

FILM

Entering into the BFA Film Major

Students entering into a Film major will need to designate their area of focus within the major when they apply. This can be changed once admitted, but their portfolio work should support this interest.

The focus areas include:

- directing
- producing
- cinematography
- screenwriting
- acting
- editing

Admissions officials and Film professors are seeking evidence of creativity, imagination, drive, vision and purpose.

Preparation for College: What to Do in High School

Many independent activities can lead to building a successful film resume in high school, including:

- short film creation (even TikTok!)
- photography
- graphic design
- creative writing
- event creation and production

Other activities:

- summer film programs (acting, directing, cinematography, production, screenwriting, editing)
- community college or college classes, internships, HS classes, online programs, etc.

Preparation for College: What to Do in High School (cont.)

It can be helpful to house all of these projects on one platform - creating an online portfolio on a personal website.

This personal website portfolio can include:

- links or embedded videos to film work on YouTube/Vimeo/TikTok
- photography gallery
- graphic design or other visual art
- written work/scripts/film treatments
- resume of activities, awards, classes, projects, etc
- an “about me” section - often helpful to add an intention/vision on this page as well

The BFA Film Application

Supplemental Essays + Portfolio

In addition to the main elements of the application (Common App, UCs, CalStates, Coalition, etc), for the BFA Film Major, students are asked to upload a portfolio - usually via SlideRoom or Acceptd. The requirements differ by school, but generally this includes:

- *3-5 minute film (often Chapman's is the "go to/used for all" at 3 mins with no dialogue that shows a change in perspective)*
- *artist statement*
- *writing samples*
- *essay on "why do you want to major in film"*
- *essay on "why do you want to focus on directing, screenwriting, producing, etc within the major"*
- *optional visual art samples*

General Timeline for BFA Film Applications

9th, 10th, 11th grades:

Create! Create! Create! Website!

11th grade:

Work on film or screenplay for submission

12th grade - November - December:

Applications due!

IMPORTANT to note the early due date for many top programs

THEATER

Entering into the BFA Theater Major

Students entering into a BFA Theater major are not required to designate their focus until they become an upperclassman, then often can focus on directing or acting. BUT, there are different majors/programs such as:

- Acting
- Musical Theater

Adjacent to the Acting and MT major in many BFA programs are focuses like Theater Education, Theater History and Dramaturgy that do not require an audition.

Admissions officials and theater professors are seeking evidence of passion, dedication, drive, and a collaborative focus.

Preparation for College: What to do in High School

- High School theater productions: any and all positions, from acting, directing, playwriting, stage managing, producing, designing
- A broad range of works is wonderful! From Shakespeare to comedies, Greek tragedies, to musical theater, film to improvisation - the more the better!
- Participation in local and community theater
- Summer programs and summer productions
- Coaching with a director/teacher for audition preparation
- Training in dance and voice if musical theater is the goal

The BFA Theater Application

Supplemental Essays + Auditions

In addition to the main elements of the application (Common App, UCs, CalStates, Coalition, etc), for the BFA Theater Major, students are generally asked to send in two video auditions - the “**pre-screen**” and, if invited to, the “**real**” **invited audition**. Many schools do not require you to attend an in-person audition, but are making it an option again.

The **pre-screen** generally consists of two contrasting monologues (~ 2 mins in length each for BFA Acting). The Musical Theater pre-screen adds on dance and vocal selections.

Admissions officials use the pre-screens as just that - a kind of “weeding out” before the “real” audition. Students are invited to submit or attend a second audition if they successfully pass the pre-screens.

ALTERNATELY: Students can attend the [UNIFIED AUDITIONS](#) in January/February in select cities. 27 university acting programs are represented.

General Timeline for BFA Theater Applications

9th, 10th, 11th grades:

Perform! Create! Collaborate!

11th grade - spring and summer:

- Find and work on audition pieces
- create a calendar for pre-screens and auditions

12th grade - October - November:

SOME Applications due!
SOME pre-screens due

12th grade - January - February:

IN PERSON general auditions (Unifieds)
- not all college participate...

What Professors and Admissions Officials look for in a BA and BFA Theater major candidate:

Bud Coleman, PhD

*Professor • Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre at CU Boulder • Divisional
Dean of Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences*

[PLAY VIDEO](#)

What Professors and Admissions Officials look for in a BFA Theater major candidate

Shelly Gaza, MFA, AEA

Interim Director, UNC Greeley School of Theatre Arts and Dance •

Executive Director, Little Theatre of the Rockies

QUESTIONS

Thank you for
joining us today!

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Don't forget to
take the Session
Survey on the
Conference App

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2023 HECA Annual Conference
Washington, DC

CAPITOLIZE

We look forward to seeing you in DC!