

# UMBC Theatre Recruitment Video - Finding Your Voice

Transcribed by [TurboScribe.ai](https://turbo.scribe.ai).

[Professor Colette Searls] (0:00 – 0:02)

Whatever I'm teaching at UMBC, I just love these students.

[Professor Susan McCully] (0:02 – 0:05)

The thing that I most enjoy about being at UMBC is teaching.

[Professor Eric Abele] (0:06 – 0:07)

I get to teach a variety of things.

[Adjunct Professor Susan Stroupe] (0:08 – 0:09)

We love nerding out.

[Professor Nikki Hartman] (0:14 - 0:18)

The faculty are really interested in developing your voice as an artist.

[Professor Eric Abele] (0:18 - 0:25)

We are an undergraduate only program, which means I get to work with folks at the ground level as they start to become theater artists.

[Professor Adam Mendelson] (0:26 - 0:29)

We are creating a sense of confidence in the students.

[Professor Colette Searls] (0:29 - 1:03)

Students get a really great breadth of training when they're here. So they get to experience ensemble work. They get to sing. They get to dance. They get to work with different types of theater. You know, realism, classical work. Not just in the classroom, but on this stage.

I think that really gives them a lot of tools, not just for getting jobs and getting cast, but also to find what their passion is. I'm really proud of that.

When students leave here, and they're beginning to think, okay, I'm good at that. I'm good at that type of theater. Because when you can be really pinpointed about what you're good at, you're a lot more likely to make a living, I think, and find opportunities for yourself.

[Lucas Sanchez, BFA Acting Student] (1:03 - 1:24)

"And all we have to do is burn down everything we know to get to it."

I've never really thought of myself as a mover. I've never thought of myself as a singer.

Being at UMBC and being able to take a plethora of classes, and the diverse portfolio of classes, has really opened my mind to, you know, unseen potential that there is inside of myself as a multifaceted performer.

[Marlon Brown, BFA Acting Student] (1:30 - 1:41)

I'm currently getting my acting BFA. I have gained interest over the years in directing and playwriting. I've had a lot of opportunity to explore those, so I feel like I haven't been really put in a box.

[Professor Susan McCully] (1:42 - 1:47)

Interdisciplinarity is a kind of central theme, not only of UMBC, but of the theater department.

[Professor Colette Searls] (1:48 - 1:58)

We've got some amazing experts working here. We have faculty that specialize in voice training, in movement training, in how movement and dancing intersect, not just with acting, but with creating new work through the body.

[Professor Nigel Semaj] (1:58 - 2:07)

How can movement and physical work and dance be a driving force in storytelling, rather than something that is ad hoc or additional?

[Adjunct Professor Susan Stroupe] (2:13 - 2:37)

I teach the theater history classes and a lot of what we might consider the more literature-based classes. What I love about theater history, we think about time and place and costumes and terminology and all those things, but we really try to put ourselves into the shoes of the audience who would have experienced that kind of theater at that time, and think about how that can help us when we're looking at any given kind of play in our own lives, in our careers.

[Professor Eric Abele] (2:37 - 2:51)

I teach a variety of courses. A lot of them do focus in on costumes and design. So, for example, I teach costume construction, where we make such fun things like these dresses made out of trash.

I also teach design one, where we focus in on a lot of drawing and painting.

[Renata Taylor-Smith, BA Theatre Design & Production Student] (2:51 - 3:05)

I think what I really like about this department is you have the opportunity to try so much of everything. So even though I would say lighting is my main thing, I took Eric's costume design and realized that's something I never would have thought that I would do. I had so much fun.

[Professor Adam Mendelson] (3:05 - 3:22)

I love teaching UMBC theater because of the students, because of the faculty, because of this community that we've created here. The students come to us with passion, with energy, with excitement, with a willingness to learn and to explore what it is to make theater in these great facilities.

Transcribed by [TurboScribe.ai](https://www.turbo.scribe.ai). Video by Kiirstn Pagan '11.