**Division Description**

Niagara Peninsula College’s award-winning Theatre Arts Division offers a curriculum designed to provide students with a thorough exposure to all aspects of the theatre arts. Each student is assigned to a faculty advisor and works with that advisor to plan coursework that will transfer to a four-year college. Students enroll in coursework across a variety of topics, including acting, history of theatre, scenery design, composition, and communication. Transfer students from the theatre program usually do well in a university setting because of the general education they receive at Niagara Peninsula College. The philosophy of the Theatre Arts Division is to offer a sequential program where students can emphasize “backstage” as well as “onstage” courses. Students need to earn at least 65 semester credits to complete both the acting sequence and the technical theatre sequence.

Theatre graduates make valuable employees in any field. Meeting deadlines, working closely with associates, developing and implementing projects, performing under pressure, and developing creative problem-solving strategies are work skills theatre students use daily. The Niagara Peninsula College theatre experience can be the beginning of a lifelong interest in the art of theatre.

**Division Faculty**

Three full-time instructors teach in the Theatre Arts Division along with a number of part-time instructors. The three full-time instructors are:

**Cal Rubine, Chair:** Mr. Rubine has been involved in over 150 shows as a director, scene designer, actor, and/or producer. His most recent acting included roles in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Rent*. As the artistic director of the Niagara Repertory Theatre, he has taken five productions overseas on tours to Brazil, Panama, and Argentina. He has served on international educational theatre committees and presented papers at several national and international regional conferences. He has received numerous awards for acting, directing, and designing.

**Gina Simmons:** A member of the Theatre Arts Division at Niagara Peninsula College for over 20 years, Ms. Simmons has served as the vice-chair of programs for the Northeast Institute for Theatre Arts and has written and directed numerous musicals. She has directed over 15 regional theatre productions and designed scenery for several national plays. Ms. Simmons has also designed shows for Niagara Peninsula College and directed the original historical pageant for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Joseph Pivens:** Mr. Pivens has had a long career in theatre in Ontario, New York, and Europe. He has acted in a variety of local and regional productions, including *Our Town*, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and *Death of a Salesman*. He received the Distinguished Acting award from the Northeast Theatre Group. Mr. Pivens joined the faculty at Niagara Peninsula College in 1990.