



## Drama, Film & Dance Projects



## F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre

**Drew University**  
**Madison, New Jersey**

The F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre is the new home of the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. It is located on the campus of Drew University in Madison. The 325-seat hall is intended solely for Shakespearean repertoire. The space is very intimate both visually and acoustically, featuring a single balcony. The stage can be configured as a proscenium or thrust with associated traps. The throat of the space has been designed to reflect the actor's voice into the audience. The ceiling is articulated as well for sound diffusion and the rear wall is absorptive to avoid echoes. The acoustics of the space have been designed for speech. The space has a sound system for effects and general announcements. As an adaptive re-use of an old gymnasium, the new theater sits inside the brick shell of the building. One of the acoustic challenges was to isolate the noise from mechanical equipment that had to be located adjacent to the theater attic. This was done with large ductwork; sound attenuators and custom quiet air-handlers.

### Project Information

325 Seat Drama Theater

### Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics  
Sound Isolation  
Mechanical System Noise Control  
Sound & Communications System Design

### Completion Date

1999

### Design Team

Architects: Farewell Mills & Gatsch Architects  
Theatre Consultants: Fisher/Dachs Associates

### Consultant Team

Russell Cooper, Principal Designer  
David Robb, Sound & Communications  
System Designer

### Client

F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre  
Drew University