

# SCHOOL OF DRAMA

The University of Washington School of Drama develops innovative and courageous artists and scholars poised to be the creative leaders of tomorrow.



## Highlights

- ▶ Executive Director Todd London joined the School of Drama after 18 seasons as the artistic director of New York's New Dramatists, the nation's oldest center for the support and development of playwrights. Among numerous accolades, in 2009 Todd became the first recipient of Theatre Communications Group's Visionary Leadership Award for having "gone above and beyond the call of duty to advance the theatre field as a whole."
- ▶ In 2016, the Andrew A. Mellon Foundation awarded the UW a three-year, \$750,000 grant to pilot a new Creative Fellowships Initiative which will fund research-directed creative residences by leading artists. The project—led by Todd London and Meany Center Executive and Artistic Director Michelle Witt—is a collaboration between Meany Center, the School of Drama, the School of Music, the Dance Program, and the Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media.
- ▶ Recent and upcoming guest artists include playwrights Anne Washburn and Erik Ehn, directors Ken Rus Schmoll, Daniel Talbott, Ali el-Gasseir, and Jane Jones, playwright/solo performer Daniel Alexander Jones, and curator/producer Meiyin Wang of New York's Under the Radar festival.

## Programs

### Bachelor of Arts

With classes in theatre history, theory and criticism, performance, design, and production, we offer a range of educational opportunities that teach critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and artistic excellence based on a thorough and rigorous study of theatre arts. Bachelor of Arts degree options include Drama, Drama Performance, and Drama Design.

### Master of Fine Arts

We offer three-year intensive, conservatory programs in acting, directing, and design that prepare artists for successful professional careers. Our MFA programs produce creative leaders—skilled, rigorous, and entrepreneurial—who have learned how to foster their own creativity and chart their own course in today's ever-changing performing arts landscape. Master of Fine Arts options include Acting (Professional Actor Training Program), Costume Design, Directing, Lighting Design, and Scenic Design.

### Doctor of Philosophy

Our four-year PhD program trains scholars of performance and theatre history for the academy. We provide comprehensive training in theatre and performance scholarship, encompassing a wide definition of performance while maintaining rigorous training within a discipline core.

### STUDENTS (Autumn 2017)

|    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 65 | Undergraduate majors         |
| 36 | Master of Fine Arts students |
| 15 | PhD students                 |

### DEGREES AWARDED (Summer 2016 - Spring 2017)

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 28 | Bachelor of Arts degrees                                     |
| 12 | Master of Fine Arts degrees in Acting, Design, and Directing |
| 15 | Doctoral degrees   |

### PERFORMANCE VENUES

The Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse  
*210 seat thrust stage*

The Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre  
*160 seat arena stage*

The Meany Hall Studio Theatre  
*250 seat end stage*

The Cabaret  
*60 seat black box*

Hutchinson Hall  
*The School's main building contains 3 black box performance spaces, 4 acting/movement studios, 4 classrooms, 2 design studios, light lab, drama library, and costume shop. A scene shop is located across campus.*

## Faculty

School of Drama faculty are dedicated scholars and working theatre professionals. Their pursuits outside of the University keep their teaching highly relevant and ensure that the school remains deeply imbedded in the national theatre community. Our students benefit tremendously from our faculty's strong professional connections and real world expertise.

Recent faculty awards include the UW Distinguished Teaching Award, a Stranger Genius Award, an NAACP Image Award, a John Gielug Directing Fellowship, a John W. Frick Book Award from the American Theatre and Drama Society, and a Crosscut Magazine Courage Award.

Recent additions to our faculty include:

- ▶ **Bridget Connors, senior lecturer in voice and dialect**, comes to us from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, where she served as head of Voice and Movement for over a decade.
- ▶ **Tim Bond, professor of acting and directing**, is an alumnus of the UW School of Drama MFA Directing program. He most recently served nine seasons as Producing Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage and the Syracuse University Department of Drama, following long tenures in artistic leadership at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Seattle's Group Theatre.
- ▶ **Catherine Cole, divisional dean of the arts and professor of dramatic theory**, comes to us from University of California, Berkeley, where she served as Chair of the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies and head of the Graduate Group in Performance Studies. She is an internationally renowned expert in African theater and performance, ethnography and fieldwork, and disability studies, among numerous other areas of scholarship.

## Productions

The School of Drama's mainstage season features six shows fully-produced in three state-of-the-art spaces on campus, and featuring the work of our exceptional MFA acting, design, and directing students, as well as our undergraduate majors. Students execute these rigorous productions with the guidance of our faculty and the support of a full staff of theatre technicians and artisans. Over 8,000 patrons attend these performances annually.

Our UW Drama Labs projects provide additional opportunities for experimentation and exploration, often alongside prominent, internationally known artists. Recent and upcoming lab projects include a two-month workshop and ten-hour reading of Anne Washburn's epic-in-process, *The Octavia*; a week-long undergraduate playwriting workshop with playwright Kyong Park of New York's Ma-Yi Theater Company; and *Cino Nights*: six short plays in "found" spaces around the University District, helmed by celebrated director Daniel Talbott and inspired by Caffè Cino and the earliest days of Off-Off Broadway.

Finally, our Undergraduate Theatre Society (UTS) produces a five-play season of undergraduate work in our Cabaret Theatre as well as regular cabarets, a new works play reading festival, and quarterly workshops with guest artists.



## FACULTY

- 8 Professors
- 4 Associate Professors
- 1 Assistant Professor
- 1 Principal Lecturer
- 4 Senior Lecturers
- 3 Lecturers
- 1 Senior Artist-in-Residence
- .5 Artist-in-Residence
- 1 Affiliate Faculty

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

**Kyle MacLachlan**, actor known for *Twin Peaks* (2 Emmy nominations), *Dune*, *Sex and the City*, *Desperate Housewives*, and *Portlandia*.

**Lois Smith**, actor known for *East of Eden*, *Grapes of Wrath* (Steppenwolf Theatre to Broadway, Tony nomination), *Buried Child* (Steppenwolf Theatre to Broadway, Tony nomination), and *The Trip to Bountiful* (off-Broadway), for which she received Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Obie, and Lucille Lortel awards.

**Ken Cerniglia**, Dramaturg and Literary Manager for Disney Theatrical Group and recently appointed president of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

**Lynn Shelton**, filmmaker known for *Humpday*, *Your Sister's Sister*, *Touchy Feely*, and *Laggies*, as well as episodes of *Mad Men*, *Ben and Kate*, and *New Girl*.

**Andrew Lieberman**, scenic designer and Head of Set Design at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, known for *Julius Caesar* (English National Opera), *Look Back in Anger* (Roundabout Theatre Company), and *Othello* (New York Theatre Workshop).

**Chris Brown**, scenic designer nominated for 5 Emmy awards for his work as Art Director on the TV series *Mad Men*.

Photos by Isabel Le.

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