

# COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS: SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Carnegie Mellon University's College of Fine Arts, a community of internationally recognized artists and professionals organized into five schools, has set its sights on being known as the definitive international hub of arts, architecture and design education, research and practice in the 21st century. We welcome visionaries and creative thinkers to study alongside our world-class faculty, staff and students to produce new culture, knowledge, techniques and technologies in architecture, art, design, drama and music.

# **—** Cultivating an Inclusive Drama Community

The School of Drama attracts students who strive to become leaders in the entertainment arts. Here, you'll learn by doing — on stage and in the classroom. You'll gain professional experience within Pittsburgh's vibrant theater community, participate in a visiting artists program that provides highly individualized attention and thrive in classes with an 8:1 student to teacher ratio. You'll experience interdisciplinary learning across the colleges of Carnegie Mellon — expanding your concentrated conservatory setting into a comprehensive, eye-opening opportunity for growth.

You'll join a supportive community that encourages diversity of opinions, voices, perspectives and experiences while honoring personal identities. You'll grow intellectually,

artistically and practically as you prepare for a career on the stage, in film, television or within new media. And you'll have plenty of opportunities to practice your skills.

You'll participate in Playground, a three-day festival of student-produced work. Classes are placed on hold as you dive into new work, incorporating innovation and risk-taking to create musicals, plays, dance performances, films, light shows, installations and murals. Additionally, the School of Drama's active alumni give back to our students through campus visits, virtual meet-and-greets, internships and more. Hearing from alumni working in the field — behind the scenes or on the stage — will help you learn more about the industry at large and provide you with some terrific connections.

#### **Programs**

#### Acting

#### Design/Production

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Scenic Design

Sound Design

Video & Media Design

Production & Technology

Stage & Production Management

Technical Direction

**Dramaturgy** 

Directing

**Music Theater** 

# FIRST-YEAR CLASS

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FALL 2022

57

# Did you know?

**CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI** have won a total of 58
Tony Awards.

#### UNDERGRADUATE DRAMA STUDENTS

are encouraged to study abroad and have completed coursework in various locations, including Australia, England, South Africa and France. THE ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER'S MISSION is to provide students with the opportunity to become entrepreneurs who combine technology and fine arts to create new processes, tools and visions for storytelling and arts entertainment.

THE FRANK-RATCHYE STUDIO FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY is a laboratory for atypical, anti-disciplinary and inter-institutional research at the intersections of arts, science, technology and culture.

THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN SOCIETY is dedicated to

energizing research and teaching that links the College of Humanities and Social Sciences with the College of Fine Arts

#### THERE ARE A VARIETY OF SPECIALIZED STUDIO AND PERFORMANCE SPACES FOR STUDENTS:

The Philip Chosky Theater, the Helen Wayne Rauh Theater, the John Wells Video Studio, the Scene Shop, the Costume Shop, the Brown Movement Studio, the Morie Dance Studio, the Design Studios, the Light Lab, the Production and Technology Classroom, the Sound Lab and the Skinner and Wagner Voice and Speech Rooms.

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#### Curriculum Overview

Our school's curriculum is built upon the philosophy that theater as an art form has never been more influenced by technology, economics and larger cultural developments. We know that to be successful, tomorrow's artists must engage in compelling discourse about society, science, history and culture from varied perspectives.

You'll begin your studies with foundational courses that connect you to fellow students, inspire creativity and broaden your world view. Required courses include Anti-Racist and Culturally Competent Practice, Interpretation and Argument, Computing, Global Perspectives and Foundations of Drama. Production studies jump-start group collaboration, building your training and experience in all areas of theatrical production.

Additional opportunities for growth include internships, study abroad, research and extracurricular activities that reinforce the business and people skills that you'll need when you take that next step into the entertainment arts industry.

### Alumni Accomplishments

Fourteen alumni received 21 nominations for Primetime Emmy Awards in 2022.

Siân Heder (1999) won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for her film "CODA," which also won Best Picture at the 94th annual Academy Awards in 2022..

Alexis Floyd (2015) will join the cast of "Grey's Anatomy" as a series regular for the hugely popular drama's 19th season, after finding breakout success in Shondaland's Netflix limited series "Inventing Anna."

Michelle J. Li (2019) is currently costume designing season three of Comedy Central's "Awkwafina is Nora from Queens." She also costume designed the 2022 Sundance Film Festival short "Chaperone," starring fellow School of Drama alumnus Zachary Quinto (1999).

Billy Porter (1991), Renee Elise Goldsberry (1993) and Nic Cory (2009) collaborated on Porter's film directorial debut, "Anything's Possible." Porter set the production in Pittsburgh and utilized the talents of several current students and recent alumni of the School of Drama.

Leslie Odom Jr. (2003) won a Tony Award for his role as Aaron Burr in "Hamilton," as well as a Grammy for his work on the original soundtrack.

#### Kyle Beltran (2009) and Will Brill

(2009), roommates during their time at the School of Drama, reunited in an extended off-Broadway run of "A Case for the Existence of God" — a world premiere play by Samuel D. Hunter at Signature Theatre — in 2022.

Three School of Drama alumni won a total of six 2022 Tony Awards as producers: Jamie deRoy (1967) for Best Play ("The Lehman Trilogy") and Best Revival of a Musical ("Company"); Kevin Emrick (2007) for Best Play ("The Lehman Trilogy"), Best Musical ("A Strange Loop") and Best Revival of a Musical ("Company"); Billy Porter (1991) for Best Musical ("A Strange Loop").

David Eckert (1990) won the 2022 Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Art Direction/ Set Decoration/Scenic Design for his work as production designer on "The Kelly Clarkson Show."

John Wells (1979) is a six-time Emmy winner and the creative force behind "ER," "The West Wing," "Third Watch" and "Shameless."

Professor **Susan Tsu** (1973), Bessie F. Anathan Professor of Design, heads the School of Drama's Costume Design program, cited by The Hollywood Reporter as one of the world's top 10 programs.

#### GRADUATE

#### **SUCCESS**

**Employed or in** grad school within six months of graduation

DATA AS OF JANUARY 2022 98% OF GRADUATES RESPONDING

#### RECENT EMPLOYERS

Dreamworks Manhattan Theatre Club Sundance Institute NBC Universal

Cirque du Soleil

New York Musical Festival Oregon Shakespeare

Festival Pittsburgh CLO

Roundahout Theatre Company Second Stage

Signature Theatre Company The Scenic Route

Universal Television Walt Disney

William Morris Endeavor Williamstown Theatre Festival

Woolly Mammoth Theatre



## Carnegie Mellon University

#### OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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#### cmu.is/admission-drama

November 2022