

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Each year, the USC School of Dramatic Arts provides its students with professional opportunities that help establish and sustain their careers as creators, performers, designers and cultural innovators. It is our goal that each student graduates with the relevant skills, context and training to meet the ever-changing demands and expectations of the entertainment field.



Spotlight@SDA Series
featuring Bryan Cranston

The School's long-range plan for Professional Development at SDA involves the development of fresh programming that will require significant annual enhanced support, with a long-term goal of raising \$3 million.

The 2018-2019 Professional Development initiatives include:

SDA Career Center

The School recently announced its innovative new Career Center. Launched in the fall of 2017, the Career Center offers management-style for graduating actors, as well as enhanced opportunities and resources for the School's graduating playwrights, designers and stage managers. The management-style services are available to the School of Dramatic Arts graduates for one year upon completion of their degree. The School appointed faculty member Dan Shaner as head of the School's Career Center. Professor Shaner teaches a professional seminar at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and is a professional casting director with over 25 years of experience in film, television, and new media. Additionally, the Career Center programming will continue to include career counseling, workshops, visiting artists, information sessions, the School's robust Career Series offerings and a thriving internship program. New services will consist of job postings and referrals, submissions and follow up on appropriate projects for actors that do not have other representation, mentorship opportunities, coaching

services for auditions and production of self-tapes, consultation on demo reels and websites, guidance and support in choosing headshot photographers, and resume advice and counsel. Over the past year, the Career Center has counseled over 200 students, curated over 40 professional development workshops/panels, and sent students on auditions for HBO, Showtime, Netflix, ABC, FX, Nickelodeon, USA Networks and Freeform.

SDA Career Series

Every spring, the School will schedule a series of events in which leading industry figures — casting directors, agents, producers, directors, artistic directors, new media practitioners, thought leaders and alumni — will lead a series of open forums to offer guidance, mentorship and inspiration in fields as diverse as acting and performance, design, stage management, new media and writing. These curated events showcases the breadth and depth of post-college options for students, and help immerse them in every aspect of the entertainment industry. They also highlight internship and behind-the-scenes opportunities for all students and SDA alumni.



Select giving opportunities include:

ANNUAL

Supports one professional development event \$10,000

Fully sponsors the Spotlight@SDA series for one year \$25,000

Provides funding for Career Series programming for one year \$50,000

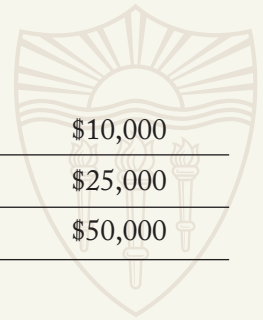
ENDOWMENT*

Endows one annual professional development event \$200,000

Names and fully endows Assistant Professor and Director of Career Center \$1.5 Million

Names and fully endows the Career Center Programming \$3 Million

* Pledges payable over five years



Going Pro: A Career Development Fair

Each year, the School will partner with Center Theatre Group, LA Stage Alliance and UCLA TFT on Going Pro: A Career Development Fair, a day-long event designed to help current undergraduate and graduate-level students get ready to transition to a professional career in the theatre. The event includes free workshops, speed mentoring sessions, resource tables and a networking reception featuring leading figures from Los Angeles-based theatre companies. Past fairs included representatives from Actors Equity, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Local 33 Union for Stagehands and Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and artistic directors, directors and casting directors who provide advice and open auditions

New Media Summit

Each year, the School produces a New Media Summit, which introduces students and SDA alumni to leading content creators and curators, and explores the huge range of opportunities in new media for dramatic artists, including YouTube, internet UGC (user-generated content), green screen and motion capture, ADR, voice-over for actors, animation, and new technologies in design for theatre, concerts and events.

Spotlight@SDA Series

The Spotlight@SDA series brings some of the industry's most influential artists to share advice, perspective and experience with our students through informal Q&A sessions, workshops and master classes. Throughout this series we have welcomed beloved actors Bryan Cranston, Blair Underwood, Lisa Kudrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning theatre critic Hilton Als, writer/ producers Vince Gilligan and SDA alumnus Danny Strong, among

others. Additionally, the School held the first-ever Spotlight@SDA in New York City, featuring Academy Award and three-time Tony Award winner Kevin Kline in conversation with three-time Emmy and Tony Award nominee and SDA faculty member Kate Burton.

Regional Theatre Auditions

Over the past few years, the School has established a strong relationship with various local and national theatres, many of whom now come to campus each spring to audition our senior students (and in some cases alumni) for summer and fall theatre opportunities. Companies include Williamstown Theatre Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Center Theatre Group, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, National Players, Dramatic Adventure Theatre, Independent Shakespeare Festival, Pacific Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and more.

Salon Series

Open to all senior students, the School's Salon Series invites guest artists and alumni to campus to discuss their careers and open networks with existing SDA students in intimate classroom settings. With no more than 20 to 30 students in each session, the Salon Series provides a friendly and nurturing environment for our students to learn from and connect with professionals working in the field. Past guests include: Isaiah Johnson (Starred as George Washington in the national tour of Hamilton), Chris Andrews (Agent with Creative Artists Agency, and member of the USC School of Dramatic Arts Board of Councilors), Melissa Leo (Academy Award-winning actress), Tony Birkley (Television studio casting executive), and Danny Feldman (Artistic Director Pasadena Playhouse).