

PRODUCTIONS



Each year, the School of Dramatic Arts produces a full season of more than 20 plays in our four performance spaces across the USC campus. This is one of the most ambitious academic production schedules in the country and distinguishes us from peer institutions.

“Our productions provide curriculum-enriching experiences that have become paramount to the success of our students and have aided our school in building some of the best creative talent and exceptional storytellers. The shows are often the culminating experience for our students, harnessing what they have learned in the classroom and bringing it to a live audience.”

Stephanie Shroyer
Artistic Director

Each summer, Artistic Director Stephanie Shroyer works with a team of faculty to select work that covers a broad range of genres by some of the world’s most renowned playwrights, and directed by our talented faculty and visiting artists. These productions challenge our students artistically and help them to hone and enhance their craft. They also provide valuable experiential learning opportunities and teach important lessons in collaboration and individual responsibility. The annual line-up of shows includes musicals, as well as straight plays, ranging from the ancient Greek to cutting-edge contemporary.

To supplement the School-sponsored shows, many students also participate in Independent Student Productions (ISPs), which are entirely student-driven performance projects that appeal to the various interests of our dramatic arts community. Each ISP is assigned a faculty advisor, but the true success of an ISP is directly dependent on the students and their ability to work independently and collaboratively.

USC School of Dramatic Arts

To encourage the work of these students, the School of Dramatic Arts provides ISP grants each year. In addition to assuming all responsibility for the production, including play selection, casting, marketing, and managing the front of house and box office operations, students must also raise any additional funds required to bring their show to the stage.

It takes a tremendous amount of work, time and resources to produce this number of shows at the highest artistic standards. A trademark of our program, our active production schedule provides ongoing opportunities for students to test and challenge their skills on stage and it is often the reason many prospective admits choose USC over other theatre training programs.

Having an aggressive production schedule like this, however, comes at a cost – annual production expenses for the School exceed \$1 million. To meet these demands, and to strengthen our commitment to these important curriculum-based programs, one of the School's primary fundraising goals is to increase support of its Theatre Production and Independent Student Production funds. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, the School must rely on the support of individuals and foundations who agree that the value and education provided through this hands-on training — in addition to a strong academic foundation — are what truly prepare the next generation of dramatic artists for a lasting career in the arts.



Select giving opportunities include:

ANNUAL

<i>Funds costumes or scenery for one production</i>	\$5,000
<i>Underwrites a production in one of the School's black box theatres</i>	\$10,000
<i>Funds one year's worth of Independent Student Production grants</i>	\$25,000

ENDOWMENT*

<i>Funds one semester's worth of Independent Student Production grants</i>	\$250,000
<i>Funds the MFA Acting Repertory</i>	\$750,000
<i>Fully funds the School's annual spring musical</i>	\$2,500,000

* Pledges payable over five years