



# Theatre

AT PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

PEPPERDINE | Seaver College

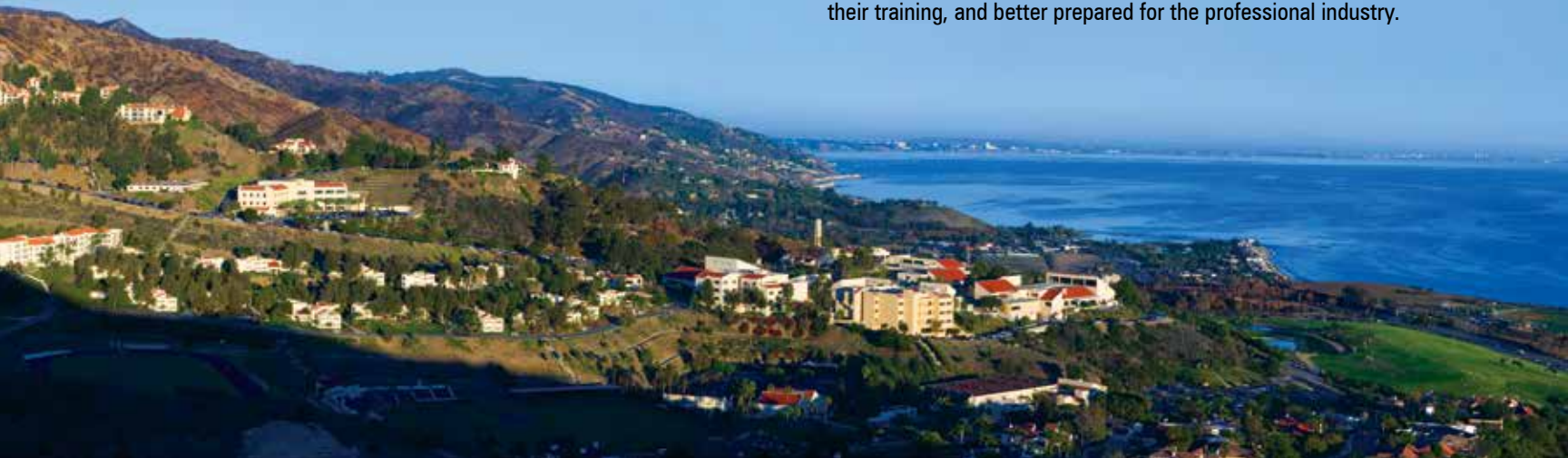
The Pepperdine theatre faculty are committed to training, encouraging, testing, and ultimately challenging our students to achieve a higher level of artistry. We do so because we understand the potential for live theatre to serve as an agent for social change. Our students leave Pepperdine aware of their purpose as theatre artists, ready to serve their communities through meaningful, high-caliber performances, prepared to lead their peers in creating art that has the power to change lives, hearts, and minds.

In the Pepperdine Theatre Program, our focus is undergraduate training. Through a rigorous audition and interview process, we enroll approximately 75 majors across the program's five emphases: Acting, Directing, Technical Production and Design, Theatre and Music, and Theatre and Media Production.

The average class enrollment is 12 students. Small classes allow more time for in-class projects, personal attention, and faculty feedback, while building camaraderie among the students.

We stage four major productions each year, provide the technical support for a fully staged opera, and sponsor a season of student-directed projects. Beyond the performance/design opportunities in our main stage season, student-led organizations like Pepperdine Independent Entertainment (PIE), the Pepperdine Improv Troupe (PIT) and Dance in Flight (DIF) provide additional creative outlets.

We rely on our students to serve as performers, crew members, and frequently as designers. These hands-on opportunities have the direct result of making students happier and healthier, more committed to their training, and better prepared for the professional industry.







## *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts*

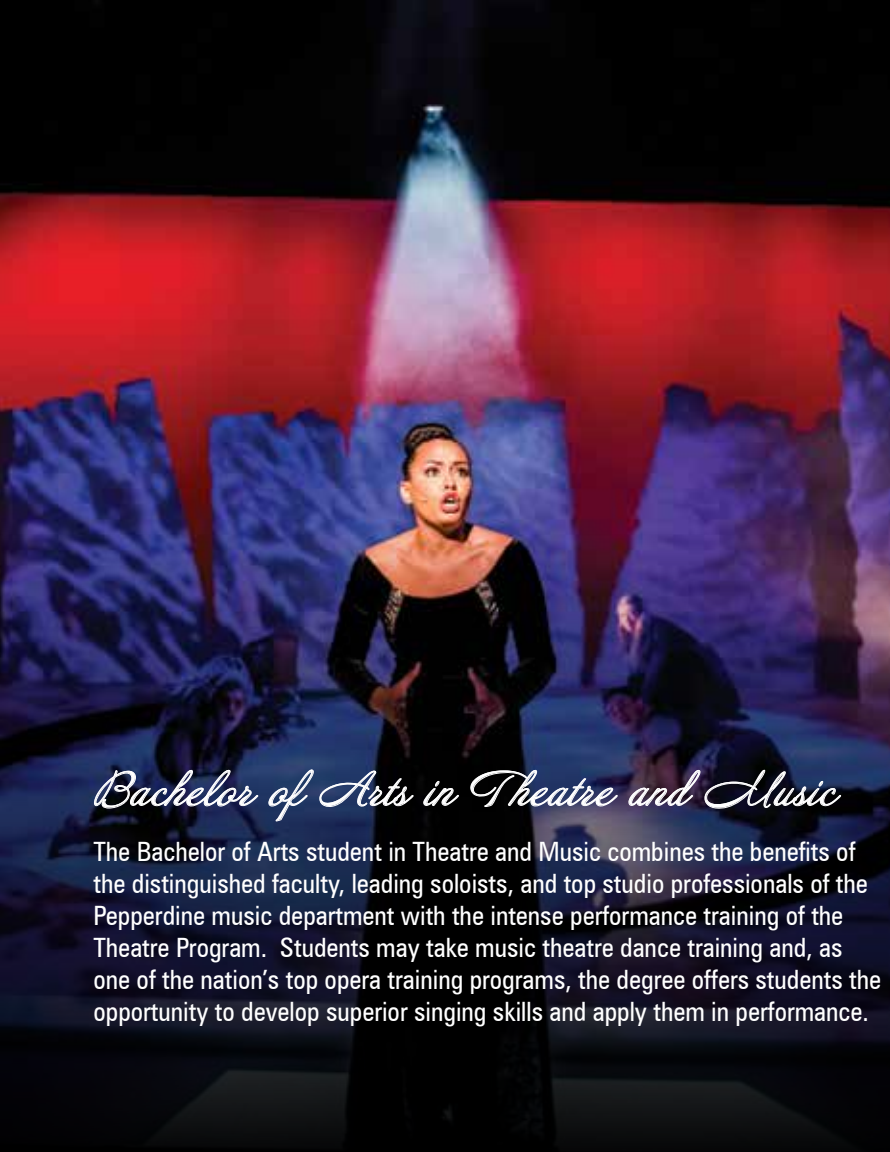
The Bachelor of Theatre Arts is designed to prepare students for immediate professional work, teaching, or graduate studies, as well as enriching the cultural environment of the University and the surrounding Malibu and Los Angeles communities.

Emphasis in **Acting** connects students to the Stanislavsky acting principles, classical authors, challenging subject matter, advanced voice and movement techniques, and prominent master teachers and celebrity artists.

Emphasis in **Directing** introduces students to the methods of new play development, deep dramaturgical analysis, and the hands-on experience of producing shows.

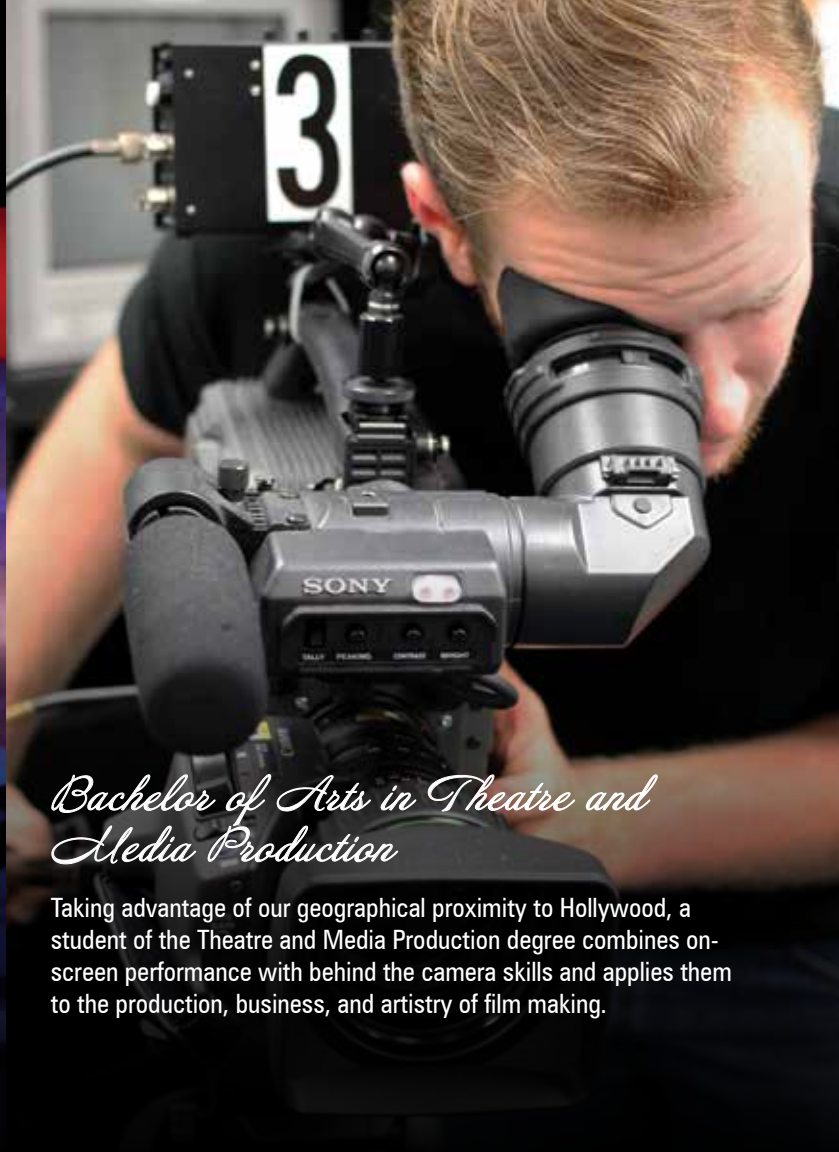
Emphasis in **Production/Design** brings students together with a veteran professional faculty and applies professional stage management training and current design techniques in our state-of-the-art facilities for all University productions.





### *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Music*

The Bachelor of Arts student in Theatre and Music combines the benefits of the distinguished faculty, leading soloists, and top studio professionals of the Pepperdine music department with the intense performance training of the Theatre Program. Students may take music theatre dance training and, as one of the nation's top opera training programs, the degree offers students the opportunity to develop superior singing skills and apply them in performance.



### *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Media Production*

Taking advantage of our geographical proximity to Hollywood, a student of the Theatre and Media Production degree combines on-screen performance with behind the camera skills and applies them to the production, business, and artistry of film making.



## *Master Classes*

Throughout the year, the Smothers stage is host to dozens of celebrity performers who offer free master classes to Pepperdine theatre students during the run of their shows. Recent guests have included Broadway stars Betty Buckley, Susan Egan, Carole Cook, and Tom Troupe, as well as film and TV actors Alfred Molina and Michael O'Neill.

## *Senior Practicum*

The Senior Practicum is a capstone course designed for students in the acting emphasis. This class, which meets in the final semester of a student's senior year, deals with the business side of acting and allows students to meet, interview, and audition for the industry's most prominent casting directors and agents.

## *Scholarships*

Pepperdine University and the theatre scholarship program offers merit, and need-based scholarships to students from across the country and around the world. The Ubben Endowed Scholarship for production design majors, for example, provides \$25,000 per year to an outstanding student in production/design. At present, approximately 75 percent of all theatre majors receive theatre scholarships of varying amounts.



A photograph of Edinburgh Castle on a hill, with a fountain in the foreground. The castle is a large, dark stone building with many windows and a prominent tower. The hill is covered in green grass and some trees. The fountain in the foreground is made of dark stone and has several figures on it. The sky is overcast and grey.

## *Edinburgh*

In addition to course work and productions on the Malibu campus, the Theatre Program has produced new and existing plays at the International Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland, since 1985.

In the summer of 2012 the Pepperdine Theatre Program was awarded a Scotsman's Fringe First Award for innovation and outstanding new writing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for the world premier of ***Why Do You Stand There in the Rain?*** by Peter Arnott. In the summer of 2013 students toured this production throughout the lowlands and highlands of

Scotland including performances at the Traverse Theatre, the new writing theatre of Scotland, Eden Court in Inverness, and the Mull Theatre located on the magical Isle of Mull.

This biennial summer trip has held residencies in London, England, and Glasgow, Scotland, culminating in performances at the fringe festival. For more than 25 years, generations of alumni have described this trip as the most transformative part of their Pepperdine experience.



## *Facilities*

**Smothers Theatre** (450 seats), is host to dozens of events each season. With its raked seating and superior sight-lines, it is considered to be one of the finest theatres of its size in Los Angeles.

**Helen E. Lindhurst Theatre** (50 to 100 seats) is a “flexible black box” space and the venue for some of our most innovative student productions.

**The Mini Theatre** (44 seats) is home to our acting classes, lighting labs, and student-directed projects.

**Raitt Recital Hall** (118 seats) is an acoustically superior and intimate hall given to the University by Rosemary and John Raitt (the legendary Broadway star).

## **Application, Audition, and Interview Process**

There are two applications, an audition or interview, and supporting materials that must be completed before admittance to the theatre program.

## **Website**

[seaver.pepperdine.edu/theatre](http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/theatre)

## **Contact**

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