REALITY.

THE
THEATRE
SCHOOL

AT DePaul University

MASTER

Augment Reality.

Download Layar with your
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with the eye icons to
experience more.

STEP INTO **THE THEATRE**
AND YOU FEEL AN ENERGY
OF **INFECTIOUS ENERGY**
WHEN ARTISTS ARE GIVEN
RARE OPPORTUNITY TO LET THEIR
THAT'S WHAT WE DO —
FOR
TAKE A JOURNEY
AND REFLECTION. IT'S PART
TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS
OF

SCHOOL ON ANY GIVEN DAY
SURROUND YOU — THE KIND
THAT IS PRODUCED
THAT SEEMINGLY
IMAGINATIONS EXPLODE.
PROVIDE **A SACRED PLACE**
THEATRE ARTISTS TO
OF EXPLORATION
OF **OUR COMMITMENT**
THE HIGHEST LEVEL
THEATRICAL TRAINING

Indeed, we have been **a training ground for generations of talented**

through their work in the entertainment industry, have enabled us

our Chicago location places us at the **heart of a**

extended classroom for our students.

At The Theatre School you will train under the guidance of a

are at the top of their game. They will push you to challenge yourself

produces working artists.

the wide-ranging accomplishments of our alumni

actors, directors, and leaders who,

to better understand ourselves and our world. Fortunately for us,

world-class theatrical and cultural community that serves as an

We believe there is no better place to study or enrich your career.

talented and diverse group of faculty — artists and educators who

and then challenge yourself some more. It's training that

I know that I am continually impressed by

and it is through their success that we ultimately earn our reputation.

We look forward to having you join us for the journey.

JOHN
CULBERT
DEAN

WELCOME.

The Theatre School at DePaul University is one of America's oldest and most respected theatre conservatories. For 90 years, we have prepared students for careers in professional theatre. Our highly specialized programs employ a learning-by-doing approach, featuring student work in all areas of production in more than 40 shows each season. Our students learn their profession under the guidance of a diverse and talented faculty and staff of working artists. And all of this takes place in the heart of Chicago, acclaimed as one of the greatest theatre cities in the world. Forged at our founding as the Goodman School of Drama and strengthened by our move to the major urban university that is DePaul, our tradition remains — to educate, train and inspire those who will shape the future of American theatre.

The Theatre School's graduate conservatory offers three Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees in acting, directing and arts leadership. Each is a professional training program designed to provide you with not only the skills but also the experience necessary to help you advance your career. We achieve this through a singular focus on you.

LEARNING BY DOING

Learning does not stop in the classroom. Each year The Theatre School produces more than 40 productions — of varying shapes and sizes — to give our students ample **opportunity to synthesize** what they are learning in the classroom.

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

We have strict capacities for each of our programs which are designed to provide each student with **personalized instruction** and ample opportunities for **practical experience.**

YOUR NEW REALITY

WORKING PROFESSIONALS

Our students learn from people who know what it is like to work in the business — **because they do.** The Theatre School has **28 full-time tenure-track faculty** who are accomplished theatre professionals and continue their professional work while teaching our students. We also employ more than **50 adjunct, or part-time, faculty who are hired right out of the world-class Chicago theatre community** precisely because of their individual expertise. As a professional training program, it is vital that our faculty keep a **finger on the pulse** of what is happening in the profession so they can bring that knowledge into the classroom.

HIGHLY STRUCTURED

Our program utilizes **progression-based training** with each quarter of the curriculum building on the previous quarter of instruction. Expectations of our students increase each year both in the classroom and in production work.

YOUR SCHOOL.

The Theatre School at DePaul University was founded in 1925 as the Goodman School of Drama at the Art Institute of Chicago...which can obviously be a little confusing. Yet our story's twists and turns are a testament to the passion and respect that inspired the school's founding. This instinct for survival and transformation has driven the school's nine-decade tradition of excellence in training the next generations of theatre artists.

In its first 50 years, the Goodman School of Drama trained scores of successful artists (Scott Ellis, Theoni V. Aldredge, Linda Hunt, Gloria Foster, Harvey Korman, Eugene Lee, Karl Malden, Joe Mantegna, Geraldine Page and Sam Wanamaker among them) and became famous for its significant contributions to the dramatic arts in Chicago and the country.

In 1969, the Goodman School of Drama created a professional repertory company that shared the school's stages with its students. That company would eventually become the Goodman Theatre which has built a worldwide reputation as one of the premiere not-for-profit regional theatres in the United States.

In 1975, the trustees of the Art Institute voted to phase out the Goodman School of Drama due to financial concerns, and at the eleventh hour, DePaul University agreed to give the school a new home. On July 1, 1978, the Goodman School of Drama

SEE THE NEW BUILDING

The Theatre School's new state-of-the-art facility, opened in 2013, features a 250-seat thrust stage, a 100-seat fully flexible theatre, 10 acting studios that double as black box theatres, and four dedicated movement studios. Production spaces also include scene, prop, and costume shops, a sound design studio, a light lab, and several design/technology classrooms.

The Theatre School also owns the historic Merle Reskin Theatre, a 1300-seat Broadway-style proscenium theatre in downtown Chicago.

NEW

STATE OF THE ART

165,000 SQFT

GROUND BREAKING

PROFESSIONAL PLAYGROUND

VIDEO TOUR

VISIT THE SCHOOL. As you already know from your theatre experience, there's no substitute for being there in person. We encourage you to visit The Theatre School during your decision process as well as for your audition or interview. Visits can be scheduled from our website at theatre.depaul.edu/admissions

PERSONALIZED CAMPUS VISITS. The Theatre School schedules individual campus visit appointments throughout the year. Visits are generally available on weekdays at 2pm and include a meeting with The Theatre School's Admissions staff, time with a current student, and a tour of The Theatre School.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS. You can find a variety of hotels that offer discounted rates for prospective students at depaul.edu/placestostay. Be sure to ask for the "DePaul rate" when you are checking prices for making reservations.

SEE A SHOW. The Theatre School offers complimentary tickets to our productions to prospective students. Contact The Theatre School Admissions Office at theatreadmissions@depaul.edu or (773)325-7999 to arrange for tickets. For information about our season, visit theatre.depaul.edu

VISIT

DEPAUL UNIVE

WITH A SPIRIT OF INNOVATION, DEPAUL'S CONTINUED SUCCESS IS BUILT UPON A FOUNDATION OF SCHOLARSHIP, RISK-TAKING, PRAGMATISM AND AN EVER-EXPANDING NETWORK, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY, OF PROGRAMS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI. VALUES OF PERSONALISM, INCLUSIVENESS AND DIVERSITY OF EXPRESSION ARE HALLMARKS OF LIFE ON CAMPUS.

The Theatre School makes its home within a major urban university recognized for its diversity and a mission driven by a commitment to the community.

Founded in 1898, DePaul University has grown to become the largest Catholic university and the ninth-largest private, not-for-profit university in the United States, serving nearly 25,000 students in ten colleges.

At DePaul, students are immersed in a community of learners preparing to lead a variety of industries, from business, law and education to computer technology and the arts. Through classes, productions and campus life, opportunities for interaction and shared experiences not only enrich the entire DePaul community but help strengthen each theatre student's artistic voice.

became the ninth college of DePaul University. One observer wrote: "The future has gone from 'curtains' to more curtain calls. For that, applause."

At DePaul, the Goodman School of Drama (renamed The Theatre School at DePaul University in 1985) found new life and expanded its degree programs, faculty, administration, and student body. With the acquisition of the Merle Reskin Theatre (formerly the historic Blackstone Theatre), The Theatre School gave its students a prominent and accessible new home for productions. The opening of the school's new 165,000 square foot facility in 2013 provided state-of-the art new facilities for both classroom and production work, including a 250-seat thrust stage and a 100-seat flexible theatre.

The Theatre School is proud of its history. The traditions of the Goodman School of Drama, the resiliency forged by moments of dramatic change and many decades of success have built the foundation on which we continue our pursuit to provide the best theatre training in the country.

MAKE IT YOURS.

1000+
Live music shows per year. That's more than 19 shows a week.

400+
Neighborhood festivals, which celebrate different cultures, food, and music.

JOFFREY BALLET

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

7000+
Restaurants to nourish your creativity, mind and body.

WRIGLEY FIELD

THE THEATRE SCHOOL

GOODMAN THEATRE

ART INSTITUTE

0
Dollars you'll spend on your U-PASS (for unlimited rides on Chicago Public Transportation).

1500+
Bars and taverns in which you can enjoy the company of your peers.

STEPPENWOLF THEATRE

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

MILLENNIUM PARK

THE SECOND CITY

60+
Museums and cultural institutions to provide artistic inspiration.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THROUGH OUR VAST CONNECTIONS WITH CHICAGO THEATRE COMPANIES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, OUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE NUMEROUS SHOWS, CONCERTS, AND CULTURAL EVENTS EACH YEAR, MOST FOR LITTLE OR NO CHARGE.

YOUR CITY.

THEATRE DISTRICT

Chicago has long been recognized as **a world-class destination for diverse and groundbreaking live theatre.** The city boasts literally hundreds of theatre companies, ranging from small storefront, non-union companies to major cultural centers with multi-million dollar facilities and productions.

We don't think there is a better place to begin a career in the theatre. And we should know — 90 years of training theatre artists has established The Theatre School as an essential part of the foundation of the city's thriving arts community.

But that's just the beginning. **Chicago is the nation's third-largest city** and, as such, boasts all the extraordinary activity of a major metropolitan area while retaining the **friendly character of a Midwestern town.** Attractions include world renowned museums, thousands of restaurants, award-winning architecture (including three of the world's tallest buildings), an internationally acclaimed music scene, spectacular shopping, championship sports teams, diverse neighborhoods and the natural beauty of the **Lake Michigan shore.**

THE THEATRE SCHOOL IS GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THIS GREAT CITY, EFFECTIVELY GIVING OUR STUDENTS A VIBRANT, REAL-LIFE, CITY-SIZED CLASSROOM IN WHICH TO LEARN.

250+
Theatre companies, ranging from small storefront, non-union companies to major cultural centers with multi-million dollar facilities and productions.

CHECK OUT CHICAGO'S THEATRE SCENE

28
Miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline.

NAVY PIER

EXCITEMENT, SUCCESS, FAILURE, AND **FEARLESS LEAPS** INTO THE **UNKNOWN**

Your Training. At The Theatre School we pride ourselves on learning by doing. In every class, with every production, and from every instructor, our MFA students receive the kind of serious professional training that is only possible in a world-class theatre city from a distinguished institution.

Each class and production experience is organized with careful attention to the individual development **vital for artistic discovery.** By providing a diverse and ever-expanding set of tools for creative exploration, students discover the methods and disciplines that will sustain them for an entire life of artistic growth.

Make no mistake, the MFA program at The Theatre School means a full-time commitment. It means many hours each day of classes and work. It means excitement, success, failure and fearless leaps into the unknown. **It means a serious dedication to a life in the arts.**

Our faculty expect the deepest commitment to the work and return that commitment to your individual growth. Your fellow students will demand your full partnership every day. More importantly, **you will come to realize your full potential.**

WHY THEATRE SCHOOL?

WHY THEA

Your Training in Action. When you graduate from The Theatre School you join a vast and exciting network of working alumni. They live and work all over world and in all parts of the entertainment industry. In just the past year our alumni have racked up some pretty impressive numbers.

400 THEATRE PRODUCTIONS WORLDWIDE

20 BROADWAY SHOWS OR NATIONAL TOURS

100 TELEVISION SHOWS

90 FILMS

50 COMMERCIALS

35 ARTISTIC DIRECTORS OF THEATRE COMPANIES

100 EDUCATORS AT COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES

WHY THE THEATRE SC

Alumni. The Theatre School's commitment to excellence in training has continued and a new crop of artists has emerged: John C. Reilly, Gillian Anderson, Judy Greer, Elizabeth Perkins, Zach Helm, Sean Gunn, David Swayze, Leonard Roberts and Tarrell Alvin McCraney, to name a few.

P.J. Byrne, MFA Acting '99 recently appeared in *The Wolf of Wall Street* and voices a character on the animated series *The Legend of Korra*.

Karen Aldridge, MFA Acting '01 was in the Broadway production of *Matilda the Musical* and had recurring roles on the NBC series *Chicago Fire* and the Starz series *Boss*.

W. Earl Brown, MFA Acting '88 recently appeared in the feature films *The Master, Draft Day,* and *The Lone Ranger,* and was Dan Dority in the HBO series *Deadwood*.

TRUTH IN ACTION

DEXTER BULLARD

HEAD OF MFA ACTING

DEXTER IS AN AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR DEDICATED TO DIRECTING NEW PLAYS AND CREATING ORIGINAL IMPROVISATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL THEATER FOR CHICAGO AND BEYOND.

Recent directing credits include Craig Wright's *Grace* on Broadway starring Paul Rudd, Michael Shannon and Ed Asner, *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Victory Gardens Theatre, the world premiere of *The Big Meal* at American Theatre Company, *Odradek* at The House Theatre, *Mistakes Were Made* at Barrow Street Theater Off-Broadway and with A Red Orchid Theatre, *The DIALogues* at Links Hall and MCA, *Reverie* with Second City at The Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal, *Lady* at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre Off-Broadway, and *Gas for Less* at the Goodman Theatre. In 2004, Dexter was awarded the Lucille Lortel Award for Tracy Letts' *Bug* at The Barrow Street Theater, as well as a Drama Desk Nomination.

In 1995 Dexter co-founded Plasticene, a physical theater company whose critically-acclaimed experimental works were featured at The Steppenwolf Studio, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and in New York City. Since 1996, Dexter has also directed with The Second City, leading a National Touring Company and developing revues at E.T.C. and at Second City Detroit.

He studied acting at Northwestern University receiving three departmental awards for excellence and then earned his MFA in performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The graduate acting program at The Theatre School is a very specific investment. As you know, the decision to put three years of time, effort and expense into any advanced degree can be daunting — even more so a Master of Fine Arts in acting. I can assure you, if you are someone driven to act and invest your life in theater, it will be worth it.

Personal discovery is the basis of any artistic training, and essential to the art of the actor. By engaging in a detailed, relaxed yet rigorous, and deepening exploration of self in voice, self in body, and self in action, The Theatre School demands graduate students to discover the true landscape of their being in theatrical art. This bare self-analysis in action and space leads the student to a multi-faceted evaluation of craft that gets to the center of the purpose of the MFA.

You will be in action, at work, every day, every class. You will develop in mind, body, voice, knowledge and technique in ways you may not have imagined. You will become a much clearer, braver communicator. Your imagination will be required and challenged. You will be dealt with immediately, directly and honestly for retreating to old ways. You will be praised for your ingenuity and bravery. You will be energized and drained in countless cycles. You will be called to make real changes in the way you connect, feel and prioritize your sensations, ideas and existence.

Your investment will come back to you in riches. It will definitely be worth everything you give.

DEXTER BULLARD
HEAD OF MFA ACTING

You will participate in the unique **MFA Workshop and Company Creation** arm of our program in which graduate actors re-discover the ways in which they can be in charge of making theatre. Guest artists from the Chicago theatre community and beyond teach workshops on topics such as adaptation, aerial work, puppetry, solo-performance, devising, film-making and more.

The Theatre School's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in acting teaches dynamic "truth in action". This highly physical acting program is informed by our Chicago roots and prepares you to work on stage and screen all over the world. The first-year experience is focused on self-exploration, expanding imagination and impulse, and developing life-long skills that support expressivity. The second year intensifies scenic study of a diverse spectrum of theatrical literature focusing on mythic, tragic and comic texts. This year prepares you with advanced skills to tackle the world of the classical play. The third year puts the work in a professional context, connecting you to artistic and industry leaders while refining your entrepreneurial spirit through company-created works and independent film experience.

You will learn from a distinguished faculty of working professionals (most are full-time faculty) who possess a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise. Our faculty have spent many years developing successful, personal, and powerful curricula that mine diverse ideas from great innovators. Among these are Constantin Stanislavski, Sanford Meisner, Keith Johnstone, Michael Shurtleff, Arthur Lessac, Kristin Linklater, Catherine Fitzmaurice, Roy Hart, Moshe Feldenkrais, Irmgard Bartenieff, Michael Chekov, Rudolph Laban, Jaques Lecoq, and the traditional paths of Hatha Yoga, International Phonetic Alphabet and Stage Combat. You will be inspired by a thousand points of view within a comprehensive three-year progression of acting, movement, and voice and speech curricula.

Throughout the three years, you will participate in the unique MFA Workshop and Company Creation arm of our program in which graduate actors re-discover the ways in which they can be in charge of making theatre. Guest artists from the Chicago theatre community and beyond teach workshops on topics such as adaptation, aerial work, puppetry, solo-performance, devising, film-making and more. In the first two years, each student has the opportunity to generate a project of interest for themselves using fellow students, teacher/mentors, outside artists, and school resources. The third year involves the capstone class of Company Creation where the actors learn everything they need to create a successful theatre company. Past workshop guests include: Theatre Complicite from England, Cornerstone Theater Company in LA, one step at a time like this from Australia, Center for Applied Theatre (Boal) from Minneapolis, Tectonic Theatre Project from New York, as well as Chicago artists and theatres such as Regina Taylor, Idris Goodwin, Sylvia Hernandez-Distasi, Blair Thomas, Brigid Murphy, Lifeline Theatre, 500 Clown, and Lookingglass Theatre Company.

Equally important to the training you will receive in the classroom is the opportunity to synthesize that learning in the production process.

The Theatre School produces over 40 productions each year ranging in scale from intimate black-box, to our 250-seat Fullerton thrust theatre, to the historic 1,300-seat Merle Reskin Theatre in downtown Chicago. All productions are student-designed and directed by faculty, professional guests, or our MFA Directing students. The material we produce every year ranges across the theatrical spectrum — devised work, classics, musicals, theater for young audiences, and new plays.

You are guaranteed to complete roles in six on-stage production assignments and in one film project during your three years in the program.

CURRICULUM & APPLICATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THEATRE.DEPAUL.EDU.

INFO

THE PROGRAM

FIRST YEAR

The first year asks you to explore the question “Who Am I?” as it relates to your own body/mind/feelings/perception. That self-knowledge is then applied towards developing a truth-filled approach to a role, asking the question, “Who Am I Also?” Production work begins in the spring quarter with a first-year ensemble studio production directed by a professional guest or faculty director. Self-generated projects are developed in winter and spring quarters via the actor-as-entrepreneur workshop class.

SECOND YEAR

The second year asks you to explore the questions “What is the World of this Play?” and “How do I Inhabit that World?” You will take a two-tiered journey through classical and modern plays and worlds; scene study consists of texts from the Greeks to Shakespeare to plays currently in production nationwide. Movement, voice and speech work continue to refine your instrument and help you master dialects and the use of period style. You will be continually engaged in rehearsal and performance of plays in the Showcase, Playworks and Studio production series.

THIRD YEAR

The final year of the program asks you the question “How do I enter the world of acting?” and “What do I want to create?” It prepares you for the transition into the profession, delivering powerful new skills for success as working actors on professional stages, in theater companies, on film or TV. Courses integrate the work of the first two years into practical professional application and introduce the business aspects of the profession: investigating self-promotion, the acting business, making industry contacts. Your individual artistry is released through your creation of roles, self-generated work, theatre company creation, culminating in the graduating MFA production, and the Graduate Showcase.

YOU HAVE THE WILL TO LEAD

MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS

ARTS LEADERSHIP.

CRISS HENDERSON

MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CRISS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER AND HAS PRODUCED CST'S PAST TWENTY-FIVE SEASONS.

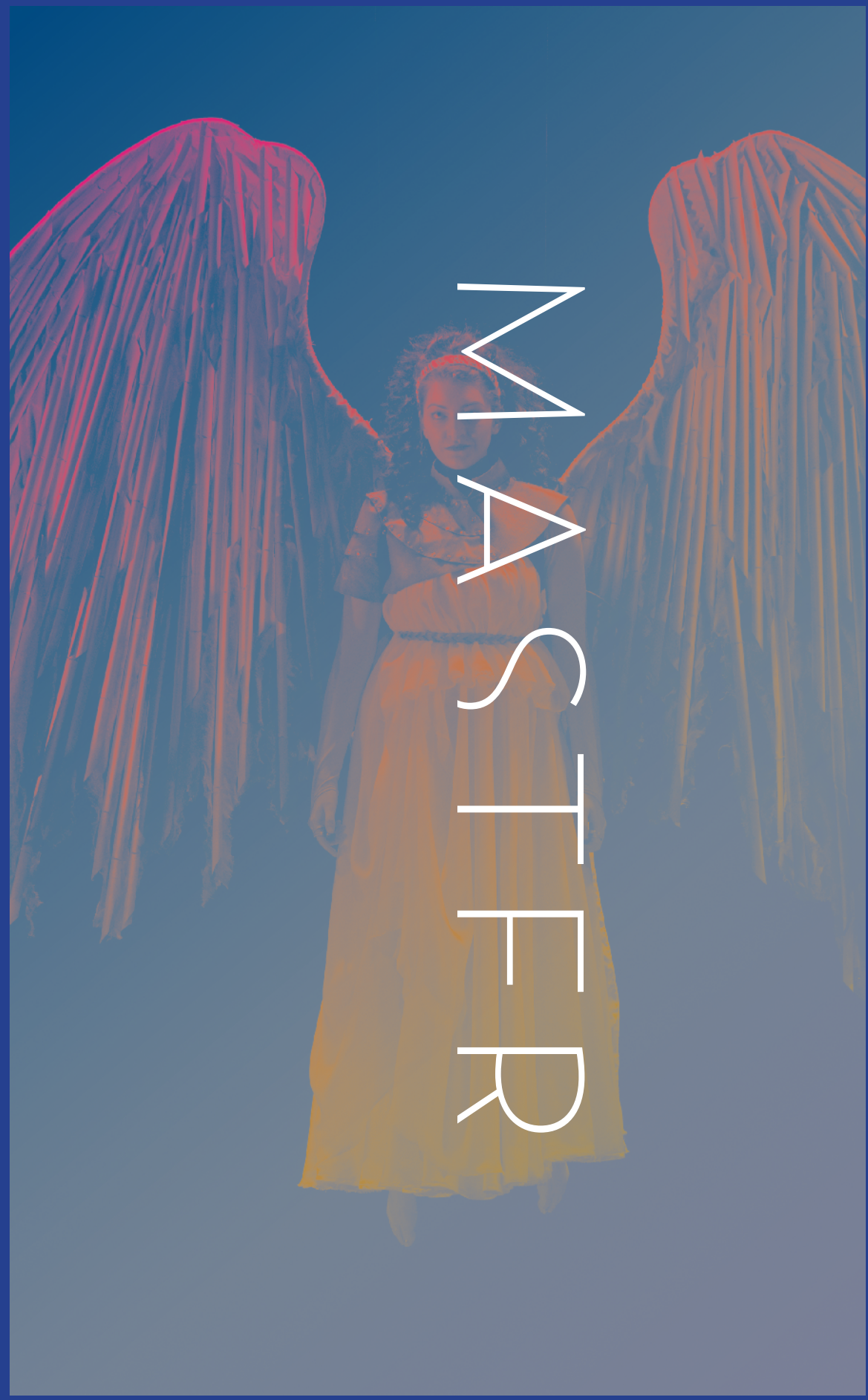
Under his leadership, CST has become one of the nation's leading regional theaters and one of Chicago's most celebrated cultural organizations, honored with the 2008 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, as well as multiple Laurence Olivier and Joseph Jefferson Awards. Criss has garnered multiple honors, including: the 2013 Cultural Innovation Award from the Chicago Innovation Awards; the Arts Administrator of the Year by *Arts Management Magazine* at the Kennedy Center and the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Minister of Culture of France.

He was named among the top 40 business people under the age of 40 in *Crain's Chicago Business*. He serves as president of the Producers' Association of Chicago-area Theatres and on the Board of Directors of the League of Chicago Theatres. Mr. Henderson is director of the MFA Arts Leadership Program, a two-year graduate-level curriculum in arts management training created through a joint partnership between Chicago Shakespeare Theater and The Theatre School at DePaul University.

THE LANDSCAPE OF THEATER IS RAPIDLY CHANGING, BUT ONE TENET WILL REMAIN AS TRUE AS IT IS TODAY: THE EFFECTIVE LEADERS OF TOMORROW MUST LEARN THROUGH ACTUAL PRACTICE.

MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS



MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

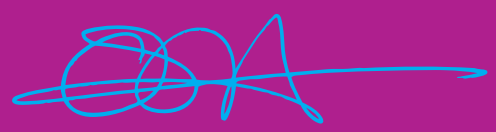
You are already distinguished from many of your peers. But successful arts leaders of the next generation must be equipped with more than passion and audacity; they must enter into the professional world already merging practice with theory.

Two arts leadership fellows are selected each year to benefit from a pedagogy that not only stresses experiential learning and academic study, but also formalizes this relationship by requiring a dual commitment by each fellow as a student of DePaul University and a salaried employee of Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Graduates will enter the field adept in the practice and ethics of the business of managing, producing and leading arts programs.

In your two years in this program, you will work in nearly every area of the theater: crafting contracts for internationally acclaimed artists, spearheading a campaign for education outreach, and working on multiple independent leadership projects. Your work will be complemented by the study of management theory, finance, marketing, human resources — all the tools a business leader in a highly competitive market will need. Throughout, you will have ready access to and guidance from some of the most talented professionals in the industry.

This not an internship, though you will do your share of the everyday work that makes the defining component of any theater — the connection between artist and audience — possible and successful. But the scale of your decisions may well affect hundreds of artists and audience members on any given day.

The landscape of theater is rapidly changing, but one tenet will remain as true as it is today: the effective leaders of tomorrow must learn through actual practice. Here, you will lead.



CRISS HENDERSON
MFA EXECUTIVE
ARTS DIRECTOR
LEADERSHIP CHICAGO
PROGRAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTOR THEATER

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS

ARTS LEADERSHIP.

ALAN SALZENSTEIN

HEAD OF MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

A CHICAGO NATIVE, ALAN IS A PROFESSOR AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY AND HEAD OF THE MFA/ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT THE THEATRE SCHOOL AND PERFORMING ARTS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A Chicago native, Alan is a Professor at DePaul University and head of the MFA/Arts Leadership program at The Theatre School and Performing Arts Management program at the School of Music.

He serves as President of the international academic organization, Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE), and serves on the boards of the League of Chicago Theatres and Classical Kids Music Education. Salzenstein has held Executive Director positions for a wide array of arts organizations over the past thirty years. In addition to a long history of theatrical producing, he has devised and overseen many special events and maintains an active consulting service for artists and arts organizations.

Alan is a frequent invited speaker on topics of arts management and legal issues in the arts, having presented across North America, Europe and Asia. He is also an attorney, focusing on issues relating to the performing arts industry.

MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS

In the ever-demanding field of the arts, it is essential for organizations to employ those with the skills and acumen to lead them with sophistication and resourcefulness. The MFA degree in arts leadership is uniquely designed for select emerging leaders who demonstrate the ambition and capacity to succeed in this evolving profession.

Our program is unique in that it integrates graduate course work with full-time employment at the renowned Chicago Shakespeare Theater — distinguishing it from other programs that include standard internships or an experiential component separate from course work. Arts leadership students have a dual, ongoing commitment as an employee and a student, centering on the synergy between the two experiences and, ultimately, developing into leaders with strong analytical, decision-making and managerial skills.

This program is designed for those who seek a challenge — one that could lead to significant personal and professional rewards. If you have the commitment, motivation, and calling to become one of the next generation of arts leaders, I look forward to having you as a part of the program.

ALAN SALZENSTEIN
HEAD OF
MFA
ARTS
LEADERSHIP

THE PROGRAM

Through its dual nature, **the Arts Leadership** program focuses on training in management, leadership, and cultural decision-making, while students synthesize that training through their employment at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, one of the most vibrant theatre organizations in the country. This experience is coupled with full-time coursework from The Theatre School and from DePaul University's highly regarded Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, providing students with the tools to be successful and competitive. Coursework and employment components integrate into a comprehensive and demanding experience.

INFO

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) on Navy Pier brings a broad spectrum of theater to Chicago each year, engaging and entertaining visitors from all walks of life. Audiences can enjoy performances in either of two venues: in the Courtyard Theater, inspired by the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre, or the intimate, studio theater, Upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare. The dramatic works of William Shakespeare are at the heart of the company. A high standard for entertainment and storytelling ensures that everyone will find something to enjoy — whether it be traditional classical theater or new classics. Through the World's Stage Series, CST brings international productions to Chicago audiences, presenting new cultural and artistic experiences.

CST's quality programming is intended for theatergoers of all ages. For family audiences, CST presents abridged Shakespeare productions and classic musicals. The education outreach program, Team Shakespeare, has reached more than one million students and helps Shakespeare come alive for students and teachers throughout the Midwest.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater demonstrates an enterprising spirit well suited to the aims of the Arts Leadership program. Likewise, Arts Leadership students are introduced to all phases of work at CST and assume management positions for specific projects. Students undertake staff management, line production, and strategic development duties in various departments, and in doing so, interact with several of the CST's constituencies, from patrons to artists to donors. Students administer the routine tasks that keep a theater running smoothly, and helm company-wide programs that require the highest standard of execution and accountability. A front-line involvement in day-to-day operations coupled with access to the CST's "big picture" planning afford students a unique opportunity to develop the skills and vision necessary to lead an arts organization into the future.

The Arts Leadership program includes a compensation package of a full-time salary and benefits. The total package is generally equal to a tuition remission, prior to taxes. In addition to the compensation package, The Theatre School also awards scholarships to Arts Leadership students for each year of the program.

MFA ARTS LEADERSHIP

The Theatre School's graduate Arts Leadership program is a two-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program that combines full-time employment at Chicago Shakespeare Theater with full-time coursework at DePaul University. This rigorous and nationally distinct program is designed to prepare students to become highly skilled leaders in the complex and sophisticated world of the arts.

Students learn from a distinguished faculty of working professionals who possess a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise and receive on-the-job training at one of the nation's fastest growing theatre companies. The program is jointly supervised by veteran theatre producer and full-time faculty member Alan Salzenstein, and Executive Director of Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Criss Henderson.

CURRICULUM & APPLICATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THEATRE.DEPAUL.EDU.

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS

MFA DIRECTING

POETRY OF THE FORM

LISA PORTES

HEAD OF MFA DIRECTING

LISA SERVES AS HEAD OF THE MFA DIRECTING AND AS THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO PLAYWORKS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES THE THEATRE SCHOOL.

Primarily a director of new American work, her recent projects include: *This Is Modern Art* by Idris Goodwin and Kevin Coval (Steppenwolf, TYA) *Ghostwritten* (Goodman Theatre), *After 100 Years* (Guthrie Theatre), and *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* (Timeline Theatre) by Naomi Iizuka. Other Chicago credits include *Grounded* by George Brandt (American Blues Theatre), *Night Over Erzinga* by Adriana Sevahn-Nichols (Silk Road Rising), *Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue* by Quiara Alegría Hudes (Steppenwolf Garage with Teatro Vista and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble), *Ski Dubai* by Laura Jacqmin, and *Spare Change* by Mia McCullough (Steppenwolf, First Look Rep).

New York credits include: *Wilder* by Erin Cressida Wilson and the *Red Clay Ramblers* (Playwrights Horizons), *How to Write While You Sleep* by Madeleine Olnek, *Hurricane* by Erin Wilson, and *Fur* by Migdalia Cruz (Soho Rep). Other regional credits include: *How to Bake an Apple Pie* and *See the World* by Wendy McLeod and Michael Silversher (Kennedy Center), *Kudzu: A Southern Musical* by Doug Marlette and the *Red Clay Ramblers*, and *Eleanor: An American Love Story* by Tom Tierney and John Forster (Ford's Theatre).

Lisa has developed new work at the Sundance Summer Theatre Lab, the Hispanic Playwrights Project at South Coast Repertory Theatre, the McCarter Theatre Lab, the Goodman Theatre, and the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference. Additionally, she served as the Associate Director for the Broadway production of *The Who's Tommy*, and helmed its international productions in Canada, the U.K., and Germany, and most recently the 20th year anniversary production at the Stratford Festival.

Lisa a member of SDC and a founding member of the Latina/o Theatre Commons. Awards include the TCG SPARK Fellowship, the NEA/TCG Career Development Grant, the Drama League Directing Fellowship and a Fulbright/Hays award. She received her MFA in directing from the University of California, San Diego.

Theatre artists take the big ideas and conundrums of their time and transform them in to living beings in action over space and time.

We are looking for a few visionary artists who want to challenge the world they live in through their work in the theatre. We seek early career directors with professional experience who are ready to hone their craft, strengthen their stance, and take full advantage of the specifically human poetry of the form.

As one of two directors admitted each year, you will be closely mentored by a dedicated and professionally-connected faculty. Our aim is to nurture you as an individual artist with a distinct voice. You will be exposed to many approaches to theatre making, and from those you will develop your own singular style as an artist and a leader.

You will learn by doing. In your three-year tenure here, you will direct six full productions, across a full range of genres, scale of production, and in a number of different kinds of spaces. Additionally, you will take seven full quarters of practicum courses in which you will test your skills and experiment with new tools on your feet in collaboration with actors.

You will work with a talented and highly skilled acting company of BFA and MFA actors. You will learn to create work that takes full advantage of the expressivity of the actor. You will learn to translate concepts developed in analysis into action embodied by people. Additionally, you will collaborate with designers and dramaturgs throughout the program.

Finally, you will be at the center of a top conservatory located in one of the most vibrant theatre communities in the nation. You will connect with the Chicago theatre scene immediately and continually via your full-time faculty, guest artists, internships, assistant directorships and by taking in some of the over 500 professional productions mounted in Chicago each season. You will come out of this program known to the theatre leaders in the city and will be able to step directly onto the scene, ready to connect to the national landscape.

At The Theatre School at DePaul University you will develop your analytical skills, your craft and your sense of theatrical poetry. You'll learn how to collaborate with every artist on the team. You'll make connections in the field and know how to use them. Most importantly, you'll develop a style, a way of working and an understanding of the art form that is uniquely yours.

LISA PORTES
HEAD OF MFA DIRECTING

THE PROGRAM

The Theatre School's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in directing is a three-year program that allows directors to develop and explore their artistic vision and then apply their ideas through constant collaboration with other artists — actors, designers, and dramaturgs. Coursework is focused on preparation — research, theory and analysis — as well as practical application through scene study, workshops, and quarterly full-length directing assignments.

Students learn from a distinguished faculty of working professionals who possess a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise and who work with some of the most prolific and exciting theatre companies in Chicago.

Equally important to the training students receive in the classroom is the opportunity they have to synthesize that learning in the production process. Directing students complete one directing assistantship and direct a short play production in their first year, then direct up to five full-length productions in the second and third years of the program. Directors also complete a professional internship in the final year, chosen in collaboration with the directing faculty.

CONSTANT

MFA DIRECTING

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF FINE ARTS

CO

CURRICULUM & APPLICATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THEATRE.DEPAUL.EDU.

INFO

FIRST YEAR

The focus of the first year is preparation and research. Directing students complete coursework in play analysis, dramatic theory, historical perspective, and organizing ideas in order to collaborate with designers and actors. They then move to transform analysis into action with staging and scene study. Students also take a progression of improvisational acting and scene study in order to become familiar with the acting approach and vocabulary of The Theatre School. Production work will include one assistant directing assignment with a faculty or guest artist in our public production season and a directing assignment in The Theatre School Studio Series.

SECOND YEAR

The second year is a laboratory approach to the rehearsal and collaboration process. We create a dialogue between the nuts-and-bolts of craft and out-of-the-box theatrical imagination. Students also continue their collaborative investigation of the production process with design and technical students. They continue to learn the actor's process, moving into Shakespeare and heightened text. Production work will include directing a fully-executed Second Year Production in the Healy Theatre (our 100-seat flexible stage) and two full-length productions in our Studio Series.

THIRD YEAR

The primary focus of the third year is the thesis project produced on the Fullerton Stage, our 250-seat thrust theatre. Students also begin their transition into the professional theatre community with an internship. Students can enhance their portfolio through elective course work and will direct one more full-length production in The Theatre School Studio Series.

LLABORATION

MISSION.

The Theatre School at DePaul University educates, trains and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse and that strives for the highest level of professional skill and artistry.

A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances from a wide repertoire of classic, contemporary and original plays that challenge, entertain and stimulate the imagination.

We seek to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of our university community, our city and the profession.

VALUES:

EDUCATION

RESPECT

The Theatre School is primarily a place of learning and for the making of humanity. It is a place for the moral, spiritual, social, political and artistic development of all engaged in this noble enterprise.

The Theatre School engenders respect for self, for others, for learning, for alternative communities and for the profession itself.

The Theatre School encourages creativity and freedom of expression as a part of our commitment to our professional standards and responsibilities. We strive to create an atmosphere that is conducive to exploration and risk-taking.

The Theatre School celebrates the primacy of the imagination in all its work.

The theatre is, in a real sense, a sacred place for reflection, awakening, visioning and the development of moral awareness. It is a place to challenge beliefs and to understand the self in relation to others.

FREEDOM

IMAGINATION

SPIRITUALITY

HOUSING

DePaul University does not offer campus housing for graduate students on the Lincoln Park Campus. Graduate housing is available in University Center Chicago, DePaul's campus residence on the Loop Campus in downtown Chicago. The Theatre School Admissions Office provides admitted graduate students with information about University Center Chicago housing as well as information regarding off-campus housing in the Chicago area.

TUITION

The Theatre School's tuition is billed as a guaranteed package rate, meaning you pay one flat fee each year for all of your coursework and production work. You are billed the same rate each year you are in a program up to the standard length of the program. In other words, your tuition rate is locked in at the tuition rate you pay in your first year of the program. For current tuition rates visit theatre.depaul.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS

Every applicant admitted to The Theatre School's MFA program is awarded a scholarship. Acting and directing student scholarships generally range from $14,000 to $17,000 annually. Arts leadership students receive a fellowship through full-time employment at Chicago Shakespeare Theater plus an additional scholarship of $5,000 to $7,000 annually. Incoming scholarships are awarded in the admissions decision letter.

FINANCIAL AID

There are two types of need-based financial aid available to admitted graduate students — student loans and work study. To be considered for a need-based financial aid package, applicants must submit a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is the only application required for need-based financial aid and is not required for scholarship consideration.

The FAFSA becomes available on January 1 of the year in which you will enter college, and can be submitted at www.fafsa.ed.gov. To have your FAFSA results reported to The Theatre School, enter DePaul University's FAFSA code, 001671, in the college section.

We suggest you complete the FAFSA by February 15. Submitting your FAFSA by this date will ensure you receive full consideration for need-based financial aid. Financial aid packages are communicated separately from the admissions decision letter and are only prepared for applicants after they have been admitted to The Theatre School.

DIVERSITY ACTION STATEMENT

The Theatre School is committed to fostering and nurturing the reality of who people are, who they have been, and who they want to be. We embrace the diversity of what we see, what we hear and what we feel. We give voice; we represent people and ideas. Our community engages in lively exploration, between and beyond categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, religion, nationality, ability and artistic discipline. We examine, appreciate and share the complexities of culture through artistic collaboration, and in doing so, create a safe and supportive environment for our students, faculty, staff, audiences and visitors.

MEET OUR
DIVERSITY ADVISOR

Find Out More.
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AT DePaul University

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