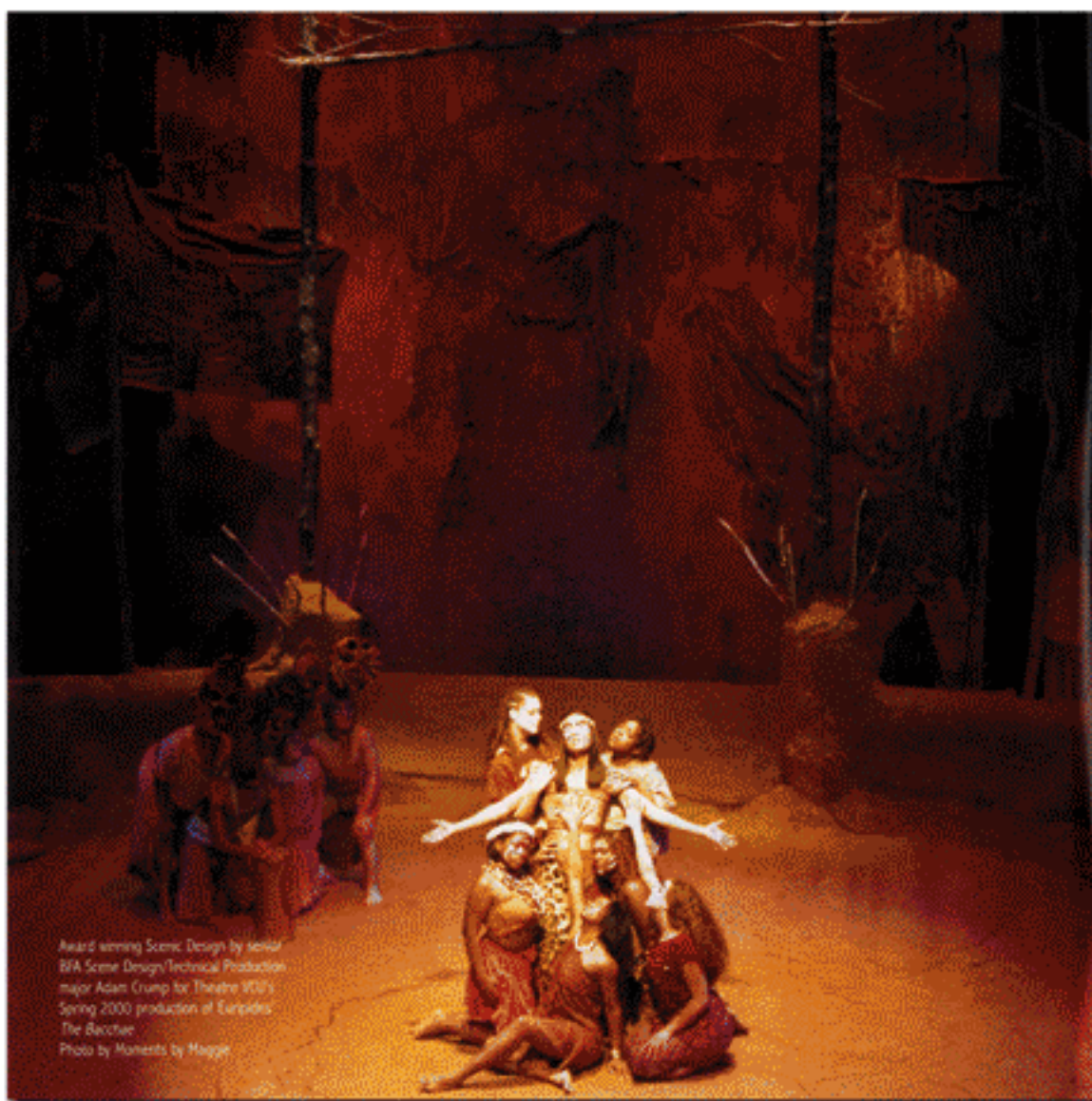


Virginia Commonwealth University, School of the Arts
 Department of Theatre brochure
 a 48 page brochure/booklet used for promotional
 and recruitment for Theatre VCU



Award-winning scenic design by senior
 BFA Scene Design/Technical Production
 major Adam Grump for Theatre VCU's
 Spring 2000 production of Euripides
 The Bacchae
 Photo by Moments by Maggie

welcome

A Message from the Dean, School of the Arts

I'm pleased that you're considering one of the nation's great arts and design schools for your professional education.

We have an exceptional faculty whose work is recognized by major museums, film festivals, art and design publications, PBS television, National Public Radio, the Kennedy Center and regional theatres across the country, the National Endowment for the Arts and important awards. And we're noted for the special attention we give to teaching our students.

Our graduates have made an impact on nearly every area of the arts and design in America. They've been recognized by Academy Awards, television's Emmys, advertising's Clio, the Gordon Gallery, National Geographic's Photographer of the Year award, Time, Newsweek, Psychology Today, Metropolitan Home, Sassy, Ms., Sport's Illustrated, Fortune, Vogue, Communication Arts, Graphis, House Beautiful, Harper's Bazaar, Architectural Digest, Chicago International Film Festival, Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design, New York City Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Sundance Film Festival, The Kitchen, Winton Marsalis Sextet, Guggenheim Museum, National Air and Space Museum, the White House, Nike, Joffrey Ballet, MTV, Library of Congress, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kellogg Prize in composition, Hirshhorn Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Carnegie Hall, Whitney Museum, Bill Blass, Oscar de la Renta, Geoffrey Beene, the Vatican, Disney Studios, Spike Lee Productions, National Endowment for the Arts, Liz Claiborne, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Tokyo Museum, San Francisco MOMA. And that's only what comes to mind at this moment. The list of professional notice our students receive expands on a daily basis.

There's a reason SOTA is ranked by US News & World Report as one of the nation's top 25 art schools. When you bring the talent, we have the experience and the place to develop it.

Richard Toscan, Dean
 School of the Arts

A Message from the Chairman, Department of Theatre

With great pleasure I introduce you to the BFA/MFA Professional Training Program at Virginia Commonwealth University Theatre VCU also works in close collaboration with TheatreVirginia, a constituent member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) to provide unparalleled opportunities for graduate students in all areas of study. Through hands-on experience, students work closely with the TheatreVirginia staff to support their Theatre VCU academic and production work.

The unique combination of academic and professional practice employed by the faculty often leads to job placement for students upon graduation. Throughout its 60-year history, the graduates of the program have gone on to distinguish themselves in the fields of education, television, theatre and film.

Theatre VCU's graduate program is one of the most comprehensive of its kind. The rigorous daily schedule includes a combination of academics and production activity that exposes you to the major styles of theatre you will encounter in your professional life. The three year MFA program provides an exceptional balanced of professional artistry mixed with a high scholarly standard. Graduates of Theatre VCU's MFA Theatre Pedagogy program teach at over 60 universities and colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

The resident faculty is composed of 11 full-time faculty and five staff that continue to distinguish themselves in their respective fields. The department's history of producing significant scholarly work from its faculty and students reinforces the outstanding quality of theatre production. Each year four mainstage plays and a number of graduate thesis projects make up the season's bill.

The City of Richmond is a quick 90-minute drive to Washington, D.C. and a one-hour flight to New York. With an area population of one million people, this "arts-conscious city" produces a full calendar of symphony, ballet, opera, stage and street festivals as well as outdoor concerts and gallery openings. Greater Richmond's professional level theatre companies stage nearly 70 shows per year.

I encourage you to consider Theatre VCU's Professional Training Program when planning your continuing studies.

David S. Leong, Chairman
 Department of Theatre
 School of the Arts



VCU students in workshop for the London West End musical
 Napoleon directed by Francesca Zambello
 Photo by Moments by Maggie

general information

The mission of the VCU Department of Theatre is to educate and to train students as theatre professionals and/or academicians in the field of performance, design/technology or theatre education/pedagogy.

School of the Arts

The School of the Arts began at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1926 as a single course offered in sculpture. Two years later, a one-faculty art department was born under the guiding hand of Miss Theresa Pollak. Since then the school has grown to its present stature, achieving national and international recognition through its quality programs in visual and performing arts.

In 1969, the Department of Dramatic Art and Speech, until that time an independent department within VCU, combined with the School of Art to form the present School of the Arts.

The purpose of the School of the Arts is to enliven and enrich literacy in the visual and performing arts through the advanced thought and perception of its students and faculty. It intends to develop innovative approaches to the creation and comprehension of works of art which elaborate on the complexities of contemporary people. These works of art clarify and give meaning to the uncertainty of the human condition. Two of the major objectives of the school are to sustain inquiry into the nature of being and becoming and to strengthen the artistic process and products that reflect that inquiry.

Department of Theatre

For 60 years, students have distinguished themselves in all areas of performance and production under the banner of Theatre VCU—the Department of Theatre's self-contained production company.

The department offers its tradition of quality education and training in acting, design, technical theatre and theatre education/pedagogy. With an intensive and highly individualized approach, the department offers classes and studio work that provide ample opportunity for students to refine their craft and define their career objectives.

The Department of Theatre provides an environment where its students can learn creative, intellectual, technical and interpersonal skills under the guidance and example of its faculty. Through classroom instruction, studio experience, professional theatre relationships and the department's

work as a producing theatre organization, VCU's Department of Theatre prepares its students for the following:

- work in the art, craft and business of professional theatre,
- advance study in graduate school and
- teaching theatre in public and private schools, as well as colleges and universities.

The faculty, realizing that work in theatre is highly competitive, requires an audition/interview or portfolio review for admission as well as advancement in the department's several programs. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, faculty members are nationally known professionals in their individual areas of theatre expertise.

Four mainstage shows and a number of thesis productions are produced each season in the intimate Shaler Street Playhouse's Richard Newdick Theatre and in the impressive Raymond Hodges Theatre in VCU's Performing Arts Center. All shows are acted, directed, designed and constructed by department faculty members and students. The Department of Theatre offers a unique program in an arts community rich with theatre activity.

NAST (National Association of Schools of Theatre)

Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Theatre became a member of NAST in spring 2000. NAST, the National Association of Schools of Theatre, was founded in 1969 to maintain high professional standards and improve educational practices in theatre education.

NAST plays a significant role in theatre education. Its main responsibility is the accreditation of theatre education programs. This role includes the establishment of curricular standards and guidelines for specific degrees and credentials. NAST also provides help in establishing and developing institutions and programs. It is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the agency responsible for all theatre curricula accreditation. In addition, NAST publishes a host of books and reports, provides information to the public about theatre education programs and holds annual meetings and forums.

Accreditation granted by the commission signifies that Theatre VCU has successfully demonstrated compliance with the procedures, standards and guidelines of NAST. In the practical sense, Theatre VCU has received the stamp of approval.