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St. Mary's College of Maryland Department of Theater, Film, and Media Studies



Being a film and media studies major was wild: stimulating, grounding, even frustrating, and it changed the way I see the world.

Aaron Brussat, 2007: brewer



The knowledge and training I received at St. Mary's as a theater major and young artist were invaluable. They laid the foundation for my artistic career. Upon graduation, I knew I wanted to do more than entertain – I wanted to create powerful, dynamic work that would inspire, provoke, and nourish the soul.

Korinne (Loynes) Meier, 2000; M.F.A. in Acting, California Institute of the Arts, 2005

Cover photo from *The Bald Soprano* courtesy Bill Wood

### THINK IT! DO IT!

Theater, Film, and Media Studies (TFMS) houses a variety of opportunities for students to study and practice the arts of stage and screen. Majors, minors, and non-majors alike enroll in a wide array of courses, including acting, directing, dance, movement, film-making, stage design, costume design, lighting design, stagecraft, screenwriting, Japanese film and performance traditions, and the study of subjects in theater, film, and media. Students also participate energetically in our continuous series of theatrical productions, dance concerts, film productions, workshops, and guest performances and residencies. TFMS prides itself on having one of the most complete and current all-around programs available in a liberal arts college.

Students may focus their studies in theater or in film and media, as a major or as a minor; a minor in dance/ movement is also available for students who wish to pursue a concentrated course of study in this area.

Both the theater studies and film and media studies majors are fundamentally collaborative and multidisciplinary – they thrive in a liberal arts context that promotes breadth and integration of learning. Additionally, we provide opportunities for students to produce their own works and to collaborate on projects with faculty members and other students.

Of particular interest to the department is a continuing effort to promote cultural diversity in its courses, productions, and its community. In keeping with this mission, its faculty practices affirmative action in all of its policies and operations, and invites suggestions for promoting cultural, racial, and gender inclusiveness in its various curricula and activities.

# THEATER AT ST. MARY'S THINK IT! DO IT!

#### THE MAIN STAGE

As part of our annual theater and arts season, TFMS produces three major shows in the 200-seat Bruce Davis Theater. Directed by the faculty or guest artists, these productions encompass the widest possible range of theatrical forms, genres, periods, and experiment, and might include a Shakespeare, a Japanese kyôgen or Noh performance, an American classic, an outdoor agit-prop extravaganza performed with the world-famous Bread and Puppet Theater, or a musical, like *Happy End, The Threepenny Opera, Blood Brothers, Hair*, or *Cabaret*. For more examples of our range, visit the Gallery section of our web site (www.smcm.edu/tfms).

#### **GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCIES**

TFMS complements its production season with occasional guest artist residencies. Guest artists may direct or design main stage shows, or may be members of regional, national, or international theater companies that hold workshops and performances for the College and St. Mary's communities. A sample of visiting guest artists includes Nobel Prize-winning playwright Wole Soyinka; performance artists Peggy Shaw, Robbie McCauley, and John O'Neal; filmmakers Alan Berliner, Su Friedrich, Scott Hamilton Kennedy, Yung Chang, and Lewis Klahr; and the nationally acclaimed Teatro Luna, the Chicago-based all-Latina performance ensemble co-founded by SMCM theater alum Coya Paz, '97.

# THE WHITE ROOM

In addition to our main stage season, the student-run performance space, The White Room, regularly produces shows written and/or directed by students. White Room activities supplement the department's main stage offerings and afford students further opportunities to direct, design, perform, stage-manage, or crew. Read more about The White Room on the TFMS web site (www.smcm.edu/tfms).



Since graduating from SMCM with a B.A. in theatre, I've completed my M.F.A. in acting at a highly competitive conservatory and my Ph.D. in theatre at a leading research institution. Those experiences noted, I still consider my four years as an SMCM theatre major as the most wonderful and artistically defining ones of my educational career.

**Kurt Heinlein**, 1992; associate professor and coordinator, B.F.A. professional actor training program, Missouri State University

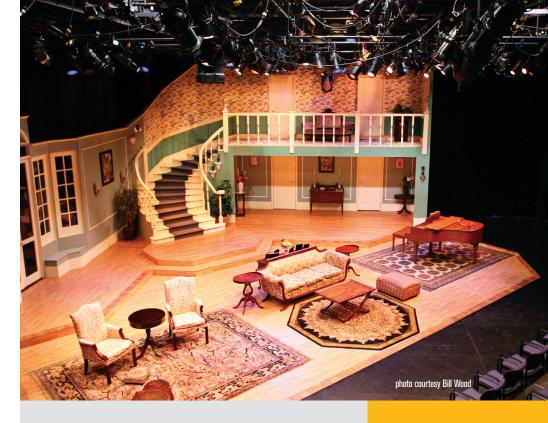
Ten years later, I still feel that majoring in theater at St. Mary's was one of the best decisions I ever made.

**Alana Smith,** 2001; M.A., School of Social Work, University of Maryland-Baltimore, 2013



During my four years at SMCM, TFMS became the hub of my academic studies. I discovered invigorating classes in acting technique, directing, film theory, documentary studies, performance art, and filmmaking. I am so lucky to have had such opportunities for study during my undergraduate career.

**Megan Rippey**, 2008; M.F.A. in Acting, California Institute of the Arts, 2013



# **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

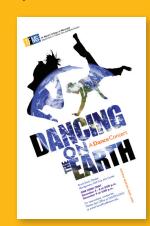


Emily Sillcox (class of 2012, B.A. film and media studies, double minor in biology and environmental studies) was the recipient of the 2012 Arts Alliance Award for Excellence in Film and Media Studies. Currently an M.F.A. student in the graduate program in science and natural history filmmaking

in the school of film and photography at Montana State University, Emily first combined her interest in the sciences with her passion for filmmaking when she interned at the National Wildlife Federation in Reston, VA in the summer of 2010. A year later as a summertime independent project, she produced a short documentary film, "The Importance of Being an Oyster," about the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program for the local St. Mary's River Watershed Association. For her senior-year St. Mary's Project, Emily produced "A Living Museum," a 13-minute documentary about the historical recreation ship, the Maryland Dove, which is moored in Historic St. Mary's City, MD, and her crew. In her spare time, Emily loves to dance and to create her own choreography; even while a student at SMCM, she taught classes at local dance studios!

Above: The set for Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* in the recently renovated Bruce Davis Theater, the TFMS main stage.

**Below:** SMCM dance programming includes two – three dance performances a year.



# FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES AT ST. MARY'S

THINK IT! DO IT!

#### TFMS FILM SERIES

In addition to our theater season, we produce the annual TFMS Film Series. The film series brings to campus internationally acclaimed, award-winning filmmakers who screen and discuss their work, visit film production and film studies classes, and meet informally with TFMS students during their two-three day residencies at the College. The inaugural film series (2008), for ex-

ample, featured films and filmmakers from the exciting vanguard of experimental documentary, while subsequent series have examined such diverse topics as uses of the home movie in documentary and fiction films, environmental film, alternative forms of animation and collage, and feminist film. For more information



about the film series, visit the Film Series Archive section of our web site (www.smcm.edu/tfms).

# MEDIA PRODUCTION

TFMS resources in media production provide students with access to a variety of video production and post-production technology. Production classes and St. Mary's Projects have access to Canon Vixia HF-S30 and Canon XA-10 HD cameras, Smith-Victor lighting kits, and Audio-Technica microphones, along with supporting production equipment. Post-production equipment is located in the Montgomery Hall Pro-Lab and the TFMS Editing Room as well as in the Media Center, located on the third floor of the College Library. For a full listing of equipment, visit the Filmmaking Resources section in the on-line Majors' Handbook at www.smcm. edu/tfms.



When I graduated from St. Mary's as a theater major, I realized I had received not just a degree, but a true education. The department not only gave me a foundation in the theory and practice of my craft, but most importantly an opportunity to ignite as an artist and to develop a style and interest in chalenging theatrical material, which led me on fascinating journeys after I left the school.

A Lorraine Robinson, '92, director of faculty and education, Sitar Arts Center and co-founder, MuseFire Productions, a multimedia production company incorporating both stage and screen media. Washington, D.C.

My film courses broadened my understanding of history, art, psychology, politics, technology, cultural diversity, social change, and the written word. The program brought this complex and influential art form to life.

**Adam Sincell,** 2008; M.A., film and electronic media, American University, 2011

**Right:** MH 111 is the principal screening room for TFMS film studies classes.

#### A TFMS EDUCATION

After graduation, a student majoring or minoring in theater studies, in film and media studies, or in dance/movement should be able to:

- Draw upon a full range of knowledge and skills in theater, film, and media scholarship and practice;
- Create and/or appreciate innovative and quality works of theater, performance, and media based on historical knowledge and diverse cultural experiences;
- Communicate effectively with audiences through at least one of the components of representational or visual arts (acting, directing, designing, scriptwriting, filmmaking, dance, etc.);
- Realize the rewards of being socially engaged scholars, artists, and audiences;
- Pursue graduate study or careers in their chosen field and lifelong achievement as global citizens and creative, critical thinkers.

TFMS prepares its students for success in a variety of graduate fields and professional opportunities. In recent years, students majoring and minoring in TFMS have attended such graduate schools as:

California Institute of the Arts, NYU (Tisch School of the Arts), UCLA, Northwestern University, University of Washington, Rutgers University, and Brown University

# Students have entered a number of career fields, including:

acting, directing, set, costume, and lighting design, stage management, technical direction, film and video production, secondary and higher education, broadcast and print journalism, radio, medicine, law, beer-making



TFMS at St. Mary's allowed me to embrace all my different interests. With courses on various international cinemas and genres to cultural studies, I learned the history, the art form, and the cultural impact of film and media to a degree that still impresses me today.

**Molly Hubbs,** 2007; M.A., cinema studies, NYU, Tisch School of the Arts, 2009









