



school of the
arts, media,
performance
& design



ampd.yorku.ca

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

→→ DEFINING THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY

The Department of Theatre in York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in Eastern Canada. After a foundation year, students join the Acting Conservatory or specialize in fields ranging from dramatic literature, theatre history and playwriting to production and design. Versatility, relevance and partnerships with other arts departments and companies like the Canadian Stage Company and Harbourfront Centre are the hallmarks of AMPD Theatre.

THE LANDSCAPE

Theatre has always been recognized as the place where the arts meet—acting, dance and music traditionally marry on stage. But the practice of blended storytelling is richer still today: as part of our quest to both mirror and inspire our multifaceted, high-tech world, a growing number of performances by Toronto's 200 professional stage organizations are embracing aspects of film, digital technology, social media, even sustainability.

OUR VISION

In addition to spectacles like *The Beggar's Opera*, AMPD Theatre is bridging disciplines across the curriculum and through research. A joint offering with York's Department of Film teaches theatre students how to work in film and film students how to design a set and support a small film production. Faculty member Ian Garrett is applying his expertise in sustainability and design to the creation of "smart" productions. The success of these experiences is inspiring a complete course review and a unique opportunity for York to deepen its commitment to theatre education that teaches the craft and then inspires students to think beyond its traditional interpretation.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The marriage between the disciplines and a willingness to take performance risks are two of the reasons students choose AMPD Theatre. In 2014, for example, the department's performance of *The Beggar's Opera* cast actors, musicians and dancers as the inmates; York digital media students provided TV monitor surveillance, a prison website and Facebook page for the Warden; and Osgoode law students fanned the fires of debate from the audience. Such unique learning experiences set York apart from other university and college theatre programs and drive a growing demand for admission. In 2014, more than 500 talented students competed for 110 first-year placements in York's theatre programs and the numbers are expected to continue to rise.

YOUR INVESTMENT

Gifts to one of the following priority areas will help foster disciplinary rigour and interdisciplinary daring across AMPD Theatre:

- a renovated **JGG Studio Theatre** featuring "intelligent show technology"—2 and 3-D technology that supports interactive productive elements like virtual sets, motion capture, and infrared tracking and projection
- **Artists-in-Residence** to engage with students and challenge the traditional notion of theatre through symposia, workshops, productions and research that support department-wide themes such as: What is violence? Who defines us?
- **Awards** to support two students a year participating in York's new MFA-Stage Direction project, a partnership between Theatre@York and the Canadian Stage Company

YOUR IMPACT

Your investment will help AMPD Theatre:

- defy stereotype by strengthening its reputation as the go-to place for academic theatre studies and training
- create innovative bridges between theatre and other arts disciplines that lead to new forms of storytelling
- equip students with the skills, experiences and imagination to work in Toronto's highly competitive theatre scene or apply their education in other unique ways

A LAUNCH PAD FOR TALENT

York Theatre is the launch pad for a generation of talent, including award-winning film actress Rachel McAdams; stage director Weyni Mengesha; and David Hein, who has designed more than 60 North American stage productions.

CONTACT US

For more information about York's Department of Theatre and how you can help define our creative future today, contact:

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