

# Television, Film and New Media Production

IN THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE, TELEVISION, AND FILM  
IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES AND FINE ARTS

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## Faculty

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**Mark W. Freeman**, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television,  
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**Martha M. Lauzen**, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre, Television,  
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**David A. Morong**, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television,  
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**Timothy A. Powell**, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre, Television,  
and Film

## Associateships and Assistantships

Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships are available to a limited number of qualified students. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the school.

## General Information

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film offers graduate study leading to the Master of Fine Arts in film and television production. This degree prepares students for careers in creative areas of media design and production.

## Master of Fine Arts Degree in Film and Television Production

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film, in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, offers graduate study leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television production. This degree stresses hands-on creative endeavors. It is especially useful for those pursuing careers in film, television, radio, or related production activities where a sophisticated and disciplined ability to conceive, initiate, and complete original media is required. Graduates of this program gain the essential education, technical training, and creative experience necessary for professional careers and/or teaching. The degree offers advanced study in the history and criticism of broadcasting and film; scriptwriting; financing, preproduction, and postproduction; advanced audio, video, and film production; production design and art direction; international cinema; and development of production expertise in a wide range of emerging communication technologies. The Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television production emphasizes advanced media design and production. Admission to this degree program requires undergraduate preparation, documented through submission of a portfolio reel of previous creative activity or other evidence of relevant creative activity. Postbaccalaureate students who are without previous media production education or experience and who wish to learn television and film production should consider pursuing a second bachelor's degree in media production or completing basic production courses elsewhere before enrolling in graduate study at San Diego State University.

Teaching facilities in the School of Theatre, Television, and Film include a large state-of-the-art television studio, digital editing suites, Foley room, animation suite, scene shop and an equipment checkout center stocked with film and digital cameras and recording equipment, lighting, and grip equipment. Major public broadcasting stations, KPBS-TV and KPBS-FM, are located on

campus and offer internship opportunities. The university operates a campuswide, closed-circuit, instructional television service and Multimedia Center, and is also home to the International Center for Communications and a student-operated radio station. San Diego offers abundant internship opportunities in production companies and television and radio stations, such as the leading cable carrier, Cox Communications.

## Admission to Graduate Study

Students will be admitted for the fall semester only. Application packages must be received and complete by the previous March 1.

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as outlined in Admission and Registration, students applying for admission to the Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television production are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Undergraduate major or minor in television, film, or a related communication discipline. Those lacking adequate undergraduate preparation or equivalent professional experience for the program should consider enrolling in media courses at community colleges or in intensive craft training programs before applying to the program.
2. Minimum grade point average of 3.0 (when A equals 4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted (this calculation may not include lower division courses taken after award of a baccalaureate degree).
3. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants; however, in some cases it may be waived. The waiver may be granted for an applicant who, at the time of application, (a) earned a bachelor's degree at a U.S. institution with a final GPA of at least 3.0, or (b) has a bachelor's degree in progress at a U.S. institution and current GPA is at least 3.25. Applicants who meet either criteria will be granted the waiver when an official transcript has been provided and reviewed by the department and Graduate Admissions. International applicants and students below the target GPA must take the GRE. Applicants taking the GRE must post a verbal score of 450 or higher; a quantitative score of 450 or higher; a combined verbal and quantitative score of 950 or higher; and a GRE writing assessment (GRE-W) of level 4 or higher. For applicants deficient in the GRE quantitative, a score of 450 or higher on the GRE analytic may be substituted.
4. All graduate and post-baccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is not English and whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English must demonstrate competence in English. Those applicants who do not possess a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary institution where English is the principal language of instruction must submit official TOEFL or IELTS results. The minimum TOEFL required score for admission is 80 for the iBT test or 550 for the PBT test. The minimum required IELTS score for admission is 6.5. Please note scores must be recent; within the past two years.

## Television, Film and New Media Production

- Students who have received a M.A. degree in film, television and new media production from SDSU within the past six years may apply for this degree and transfer up to 24 credits from the M.A. degree toward this M.F.A. Applicants holding a M.A. or pursuing a M.F.A. from an acceptable accredited institution may transfer up to 18 units upon review and recommendation by the graduate adviser and with approval of the dean of the Division of Graduate Affairs.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu> apply along with the application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Theatre, Television, and Film.

### Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted together directly to:

#### Graduate Admissions

Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

- Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all post-secondary institutions attended;
  - Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
  - Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
- GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682);
- English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682).

### School of Theatre, Television, and Film

The following admissions materials must be submitted electronically by April 1:

- Three letters of recommendation. At least one letter from an academic reference and at least one letter from a professor or professional acquainted with the applicant's creative activities;
- Curriculum vitae or resume that includes any film and/or video production experience you have had;
- Evidence the applicant can provide creativity relevant to media productivity, technical skill level, and command of the medium. Generally, a sample reel is the most useful. The sample reel may be uploaded, delivered by link to a website such as Vimeo or YouTube, or sent directly to the department on a USB flash drive. Detailed instructions are provided on the school's website at <http://tf.sdsu.edu>. Include work in which applicant held a key creative role (writer/director, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, production designer). Credits must be clearly indicated. Even though long work may be submitted, no more than 10 minutes of the work provided will be viewed, so cue, or specify appropriate cueing, of sample. In lieu of a sample reel, other examples might include a sample of original textual work (play, story, or screenplay for writers/directors) or visual material (drawings, storyboards, designs, or studio photography that may reflect lighting, framing, or composition skills);
- A list, by author and title, of six books (essays, novels, plays) that have influenced applicant artistically;
- A list of three films (documentaries, experimental, narratives), plays or television programs that applicant admires, devoting one paragraph to each work;
- A list and description (in a sentence) of applicant's hobbies and interests outside of film, theatre, and video;

- Personal Statement: A short essay describing your creative and career goals and how you think this program will benefit you. (Maximum two pages.)

Admission to the program is competitive, and satisfying these requirements does not guarantee admission. The decision to admit is based on consideration of the entire application file; promising applicants in unusual circumstances are encouraged to apply.

Students accepted for graduate study in the Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television production are initially admitted with conditional graduate standing (classified). Full classified standing is awarded only after the student has completed Television, Film and New Media 605 with a grade of B or better.

### Advancement to Candidacy

In addition to meeting the general requirements for advancement to candidacy described in Requirements for Master's Degrees, students seeking the Master of Fine Arts in film, and television production must complete Television, Film and New Media 670 with a grade of B or better prior to advancement.

### Specific Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

(Major Code: 10102) (SIMS Code: 667309)

Candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television production must complete 54 units of coursework to include the following:

- Fifteen units of core preparation courses comprised of Television, Film and New Media 601, 605, 610, 625, and 670.
- Six units of production electives selected from Television, Film and New Media 522, 540, 621, 627, and 662.
- Nine units of critical studies courses comprised of Television, Film and New Media 530, 563, and 571.
- All students will take Plan B (Comprehensive Examination) and enroll in nine units of capstone project preparation to include Television, Film and New Media 675 and 790.
- With approval of the graduate adviser, 15 additional graduate units in Television, Film and New Media, Theatre, and other departments.
- No more than nine units of electives outside the School of Theatre, Television, and Film.

### Courses Acceptable for Master of Fine Arts Degree Program in Film and Television Production (TFM)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs* sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### TFM 510. Advanced Script Writing for Television and Film (3)

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 314 (or consent of instructor).

Scripting of dramatic original and adaptation forms, and documentary. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

##### TFM 522. Advanced Film and Television Cinematography (3)

Two lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 314 (or consent of instructor).

Art, craft, and industry of cinematography. Telling visual stories with video and film. Attributes and optics of lenses. Qualities and aesthetics of lighting.

**TFM 530. Selected Topics in Genre Studies for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 310 and 330. Open only to television, film and new media majors in upper division standing.

Film and television genres (noir, western, comedy, musical, science fiction, soap opera, etc.) including key media texts, aesthetics, themes, history, and social context. May be repeated with new course content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**TFM 540. Documentary Production (3)**

Two lectures and three or more hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 314 and 361.

Hands-on field experiences in documentary production to include research and writing techniques, investigative procedures, interviewing, shooting and editing. Analyze significant documentaries.

**TFM 550. Art Direction for Television and Film (3)**

One lecture and four hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 350; 361 or 362 for television, film and new media majors, and Theatre 440 for theatre majors, and consent of instructor. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Aesthetic, technical, and practical aspects of design for television and film. Experience in scenic design, graphics, set decoration, budgeting, and scheduling.

**TFM 551. Production Design for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 350 and credit or concurrent registration in Television, Film and New Media 401.

Theory and analysis of production design concepts for television and film. Development of designs and analysis of technical requirements for fictional and nonfictional productions.

**TFM 552. 3D Digital Storytelling (3)**

Two lectures and three hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media Production 365.

Narrative in animation. Pre-production and production techniques in 3D animated film.

**TFM 558. Costume Design for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisites: Theatre 452 and 530A or 530B.

Advanced studies in costume design. Budgeting and departmental management, character development, design problems, materials, production, rendering layout, script breakdowns.

**TFM 559. Digital Design for Film and Stage (3)**

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 350 or Theatre 440.

Theories and applications of commonly used 3D modeling programs in the entertainment industry. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**TFM 560. Advanced Film (3)**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 314 (or consent of instructor) and 362.

Practicum in direction and production of dramatic and nondramatic film. Cameras, lighting, design, sound techniques, experience in university sponsored productions. Completion of a short film.

**TFM 561. Advanced Television (3)**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 314 (or consent of instructor).

Production processes and techniques to include producing, critical analysis, directing, digital cinematography, and editing of scripted projects. Experience in individual and university-sponsored productions.

**TFM 563. Documentary: History and Theory (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 160 for undergraduate students. Admission to the M.A. in television, film and new media for graduate students.

Persuasive concepts, techniques, and forms in documentary film. Major historical works and their impact on society. (Formerly numbered Television, Film and New Media 462.)

**TFM 565. Advanced New Media (3)**

Two lectures and three hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media Production 552.

Practicum in direction and development of immersive live action and 3D computer-generated passive or interactive productions.

**TFM 571. Selected Topics in Director Studies (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 310 and 330. Open only to television, film and new media majors in upper division standing.

Historical significance of and theoretical approaches to major media directors (Welles, Hitchcock, Spielberg, etc.) including breadth of work, cultural and generic contexts, aesthetic innovation, and recurring themes. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific topic. Maximum credit six units.

**TFM 573. Selected Topics in History of Film, TV, and Media (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 310 and 330. Open only to television, film and new media majors in upper division standing.

Media history including cultural and generic developments, patterns of exhibition, technological influences, significant creative and industrial figures, commercial and social contexts. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific topic. Maximum credit six units.

**TFM 590. Directing for Film and Television (3)**

One lecture and six hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 314 (or consent of instructor).

Directing fundamentals and production to include script analysis, director's preparation and directing actors.

**TFM 596. Selected Topics in Television, Film and New Media (1-4)**

Prerequisite: Twelve units in television, film and new media.

Specialized study of selected topics from the areas of television, film and new media. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

**GRADUATE COURSES**

**TFM 601. Business Aspects of Film (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. program.

Business aspects of independent film production to include television and Internet streaming. Culture and practices of the film industry in context of career development.

**TFM 605. Seminar: Production for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. program.

Film and television production. Lectures and production of two short media projects that link research to artistic process and familiarize students with all aspects of the television, film and new media program.

**TFM 610. Seminar in Writing for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. program.

Non-dramatic and dramatic structures as they apply to non-fiction and fiction television programs and films. Writing full length script or scenario. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

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### **TFM 621. Sound Design for Film (3)**

Two lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Digital audio production for film, to include automated dialog replacement (ADR), field acquisition, Foley, mixing, sound editing, sweetening.

### **TFM 625. Seminar: Writing Short Narrative and Documentary Films (3)**

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Creating scripts for short narrative films and documentary productions.

### **TFM 627. Film Editing and Postproduction (3)**

One lecture and four hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Theory and practice of film editing to include color grading, digital post-production workflow, sound and picture cutting.

### **TFM 662. Scene-Based Film Production (3)**

One lecture and six or more hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Single camera techniques in production of narrative fiction to include scene construction and production roles. Crew-based location and studio production.

### **TFM 670. Seminar: Midway Review Production (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 605 and 625.

Development and completion of midway project for presentation before faculty jury. Research, presentation and analysis of related work, and creative engagement with material and subject matter to include retrospective written analysis of the work.

### **TFM 675. Seminar: Research and Bibliography in Media Production (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 670 and six units selected from Television, Film and New Media 470, 530, 563, 571, 573, and consent of instructor.

Methods of research, critical analysis, and writing in relation to creative work. (Formerly numbered Television, Film and New Media 600.)

### **TFM 790. Portfolio/Examination Preparation (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 675 with a grade of B (3.0) or better and advancement to candidacy.

Supervised preparation for portfolio review and oral defense. Maximum credit six units.

### **TFM 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP**

Individual study. Contract required. Arranged with graduate coordinator in area of study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

### **TFM 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

### **TFM 799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Following assignment of RP in Course 799A, registration in this course is required in any semester in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in this course when the completed thesis or project is granted final approval.

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